

MINNESOTA
SCIENCE
FICTION
SOCIETY

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY PRESENTS

ominicon 28

\$70
18
April
2003



April 18-20, 2003
at The Millennium
Hotel Minneapolis

www.minicon.org

Writer Guests of Honor:
Robert J. Sawyer
and Carolyn Clink

Musician Guest of Honor:
Steve Macdonald

Fan Guest of Honour:
Sue Mason

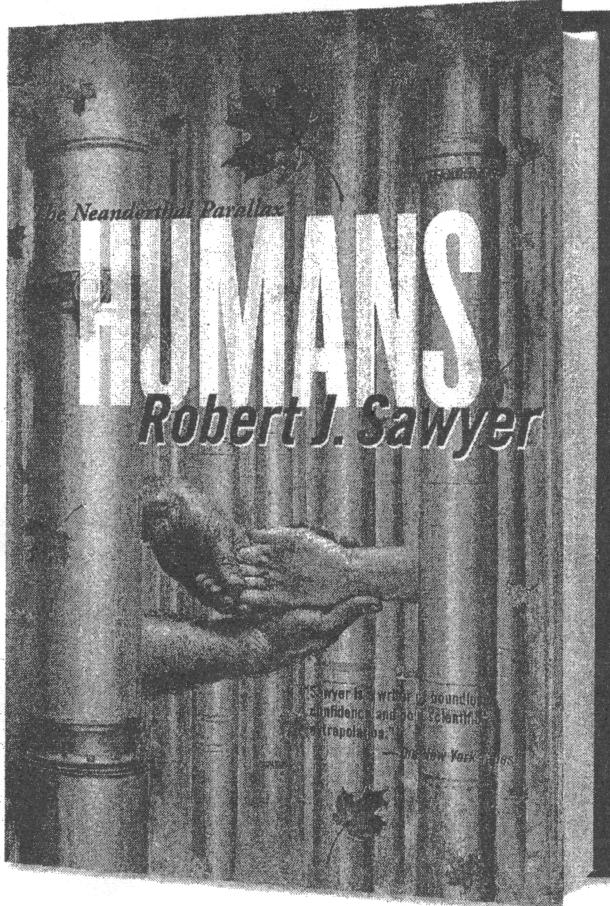
TOR CONGRATULATES MINICON 2003 GUEST OF HONOR **ROBERT J. SAWYER**

"SAWYER
is a writer
of boundless
confidence
and bold
scientific
extrapolation."

—*The New York Times*

HUMANS

0-312-87691-2



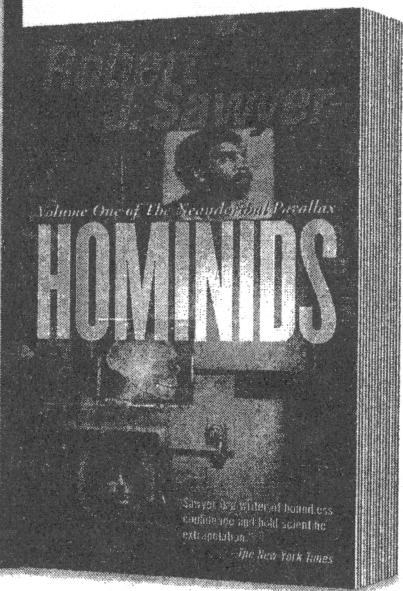
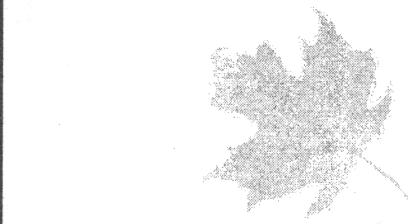
Award-winning author Robert J. Sawyer presents the second book of a major SF trilogy of parallel worlds.

"EXTREMELY WELL DONE. When complete, the Neanderthal Parallax should add significantly to Sawyer's reputation."

—*Publishers Weekly* on *Humans*

"It's hard to think of a modern science fiction author with dreams as vast as those of the internationally acclaimed Robert J. Sawyer."

—*The Toronto Star*



HOMINIDS

0-765-34500-5

**Now in paperback,
the first book of the
Neanderthal Parallax**



Minicon 38

Sponsored by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society

April 18 – 20, 2003 • Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Guests: Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, Sue Mason

Artwork:

Sue Mason: Cover*, pages 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, 33

Glenn Tenhoff: pages 18, 26, 28

Ken Fletcher: pages 24, 25, 29

Alexis Gilliland: page 27

Photos:

Larry Sanderson and Laura Jean Fish provided their own baby pictures.

Robert Sawyer and Carolyn Clink on page 12, photographer: Andrew Bertke.

Steve Macdonald on page 13, photographer: Fred Levy Haskell

Minicon Ground and Flight Crew on page 35, photographer: David Dyer-Bennet

*Cover:

This book's cover features artwork by Sue Mason, our Fan Guest of Honour.

Sue shared with us this information about the artwork:

"The three witches were for the Scottish Worldcon in '95. I did all manner of illos for that con, including several t-shirts still doing the rounds. Some were very small print runs, including the gopher t-shirt of the gophers lowering Nessie from helicopter and a sassy red number of a teddy in a space suit (Major Ted, one of my recurring characters) for childcare services.

Look closely at the magical things going into the cauldron: lots of sf, fantasy, Scottish and fannish stuff including computers, dragons, books, Nessie, rockets, and beer (a very important British fannish thing, beer).

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For further information about Minicon, The Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MN-StF), or any of our activities write: P.O. Box 8583, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408-8297; or visit <http://www.mnstf.org/>

You may also call the MN-StF Hotline at 612-824-5559.

Welcome To Minicon 38.

We Want You To Have An Incredible Minicon!

Minicon 38 is delighted to welcome Writer Guest of Honor Robert J. Sawyer and Poet Guest of Honor Carolyn Clink. We also welcome Musician Guest of Honor Steve Macdonald; he comes ready to play, sing, and have fun. Traveling a long, long way to grace us with her presence is Fan Guest of Honour Sue Mason. Sue is a long-time fan and member of the Plokta Cabal. Meet all of our Guests at panels and other special events throughout the weekend.

To celebrate our Guests, we've produced three chapbooks. The first chapbook features short stories and poems of Robert J. Sawyer and Carolyn Clink. Steve Macdonald's chapbook — a huge compendium of fannish songs — is being launched at a party Friday night. You're all invited. Sue Mason's chapbook features her fan art drawings. The chapbooks are available for purchase at the Bridge.

Since Minicon 37, the flight and ground crews have been working hard to bring you the best Minicon experience ever! We're bringing you quality programming, which includes some classic favorites: Ask Dr. Mike, Junkbox Wars redux. If you are already starting to mourn Buffy, you're not alone — there just might be a Buffy panel.

If our panels make you thirsty, head up to our

Consuite where you can find soda followed by more soda and something to snack on. All of the Fannish Food Groups will be represented, including milk and tea for our British Guests. You may even be able to find Peeps and Gedney pickles, if not their pickle hats.

We have planned some other great special events and you're all invited! Friday, don't miss our Pool Party at Tranquility Base Splashdown. Formal beach attire requested but not required. Sit by the pool and sip blender drinks as the earth rises in the east. Beach balls and palm trees provided for your viewing pleasure. Saturday, begin the evening by joining us for dancing under the stars in the geodesic dome. No extra charge for the music and elegant ambiance.

Don't miss out! Our dealers offer a variety of books, collectables, and more jewels than our credit cards allow us to enjoy. It's a good place to purchase the works of our Writer and Poet Guests of Honor, as well as tapes and CDs from our Musician Guest of Honor. Remember to visit the Art Show, featuring the wonderful drawings and woodlore pyrography of our Fan Guest of Honour, as well as other fannish art both amateur and professional. If you see a piece that would fill in an empty wall, get your bid in early, and don't miss the art auction!

If you've ever considered life as a fruit, beware. We've heard rumors of the revival of an ancient religion — no, not Lovecraft's Cthulhu — Vegetology and the Fruitarian Heresy. We think it may be connected with peeling grapes, but we promise no small children will be sacrificed. See the bloody details in the BBT. Elf

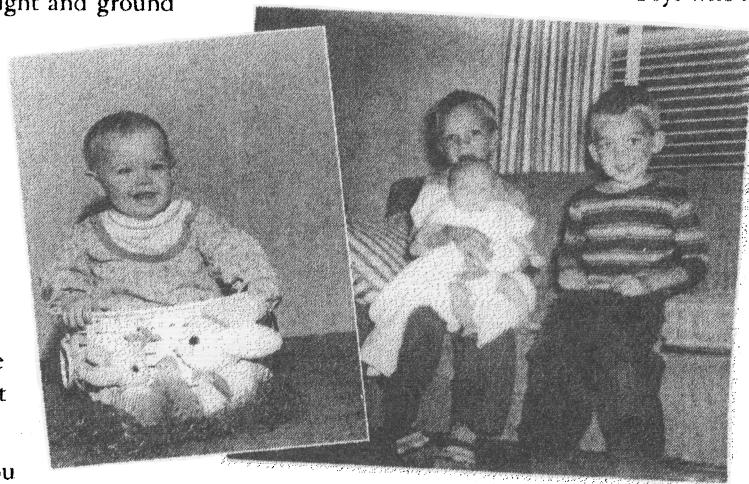
boys who have missed the monthly training meetings should apply today!

Did we mention volunteering? This is a fan-run convention. And in order for it to be a fan-run convention we need you to volunteer to help. With your help, this can be the best Minicon ever! To volunteer, stop by the Volunteer table near the Bridge.

The Millennium may seem like a new hotel, but Minicon has been here before. Because we'd like to be back again, please do not break the hotel. The hotel is your friend.

Remember, we want you to have one hell of a good time!

Your Co-Chairs,
Larry Sanderson & Laura Jean Fish



Why I Go To Minicon

by Irene Raun

Every year, my family participates in this weekend-long party. It's a rite of spring; an event that transcends the multiple religions that permeate our family structure. I love the family reunion atmosphere: catching up with friends I don't see very often during the year and gasping at how much the children have grown.

Participating behind the scenes is lots of fun and I can do it dressed in costume. My favorite job is being a loyal minion of Minicon's Treasurer. That degree in accounting came in useful after all. But when I'm not helping the convention run smoothly, I look forward to several of Minicon's offerings.

Ask Dr. Mike.

Half the fun is audience participation.

Year after year, people try to stump Dr. Mike with outlandish questions – such as

"How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop™?" The immense brainpower at Dr. Mike's disposal doesn't allow the strange questions to out trump his strange answers. From "Assume you have a spherical cow of uniform density" to "Because you live in the western hemisphere," you never know what Dr. Mike will say. You just know it will be hilarious.



Panels, panels, panels.

I'm a budding Science Fiction author and I have the aphids to prove it. I mean rejection letters. Minicon gives me an opportunity to get together with other writers and learn the craft of storytelling. I'm working on getting the final draft of my first novel, *Born Lucky* ready to share with publishers.

The assassination of the MNStF President.

Even as you read this program book, a fiendish plot grinds its way toward completion. The MNStF President is in danger. The only way for a new president to rise to the challenge of leading this diverse group is if the current president dies.

Assassination could come from any quarter. You may be an unknowing pawn in this worldwide conspiracy. Only time will tell how the President will die. (See elsewhere in this book for how past presidents met their demise.)

The Consuite

There'll be lots of food, drink, Peeps, and duckies. We had a blast setting everything up. And yes, I'm the person who brought the butts.

Hope to see you around the con. Have fun!

What Is MNStF?

Put simply, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. (MNStF with many different spellings) is the non-profit corporation that brings you Minicon.

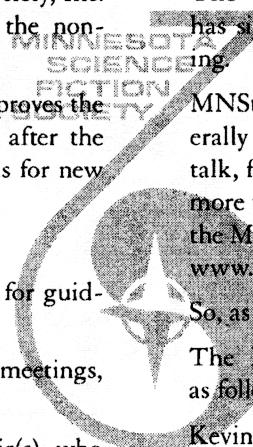
Each year, the MNStF Board of Directors approves the chair(s) for the upcoming convention, looks after the continuing needs of the convention, and looks for new ways to enhance SF in the community.

MNStF consists of the following parts:

The Board of Directors, who are responsible for guiding the organization.

The officers, who do much of the work: plan meetings, pool parties, and picnics, and file taxes.

The Minicon Committee, chosen by the chair(s), who do all the hard and thankless work it takes to operate the convention each year.



The Membership, which includes anyone who has signed the Membership Book at a MNStF meeting.

MNStF usually holds two social meetings a month, generally at members' homes. These meetings may involve talk, food, dinner expeditions, games, and music (some more than others). Meeting locations are announced on the MNStF Hotline (612-824-5559), in Einblatt!, and at www.mnstf.org.

So, as you can see, there you are!

The MNStF Board of Directors for 2003/2004 is as follows:

Kevin Austin
Dean Gahlon
Laura Jean Fish

Scott Raun
Larry Sanderson

A Message From The Operations Head

by Charmaine M. Burgess

Welcome to Minicon!

This year, the Bridge is located in the Horizons room on the top floor of the hotel. You can find us in the southern end of the main consuite. You can't miss us. Just look for the big sign with the big friendly letters that say BRIDGE.

We of the operations staff hope you enjoy your convention to the fullest. We exist to help you with the following (and so much more):

- Do you need a Band-Aid™?
- Do you need a sticky-note to write down the contact information of a long-lost or new friend?
- Do you have a sunburn? (For some reason the Bridge has a lot of sunburn ointment; don't ask.)
- Have you lost someone or something?



- Are you lost?
- Did you find a chair in the elevator that doesn't seem to belong there?
- Do you need to ask one of us crazy people working on this fabulous convention a question, but don't know who or where that person may be?
- Do you want to purchase one of the super cool Minicon 38 commemorative T-shirts?
- How about one of the chapbooks our wonderful guests of honor have created just for Minicon?

If anything even remotely like that mentioned above fits your needs, please stop by. We will do our best to make sure that you get the resolution you need.

Minicon Volunteers – Why We Need You

by Bill Christ

If you've been to a convention before, you've already heard the pitch — this is a fan-run convention; we need you; do your part; get involved; meet new people. These are catchy phrases, but don't quite capture the spirit of what makes volunteers so essential to a convention. A couple of months ago, Lydia Nickerson wrote something that beautifully summarized the role volunteers play in a fan-run convention. Lydia was kind enough to allow me to reprint her comments here.

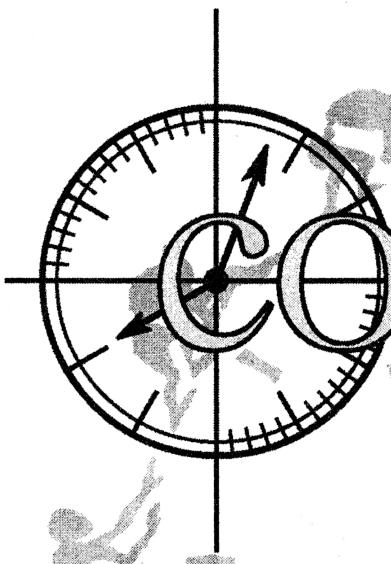
"Conventions run because of a sense of community. Actually, almost all organizations run because of a sense of civic responsibility, but conventions are a particularly striking example because we don't use much else except individual willingness to act as part of the whole. Our volunteers are unpaid, and not infrequently entirely ad hoc. The reason conventions don't go down in screaming flames is not because of the brilliant organization or the fantastic management skills of the concom. We get by every year because random people keep on throwing themselves into the breach."



So that's the secret of a convention: we're a community and you are part of that community. Every position you see, from registration to the art show to the programming panels to the consuite, is staffed by volunteers who make it their responsibility to see that things get done and run smoothly. Without volunteers this convention would cease to exist. Now while it's true that you won't get paid to volunteer, we do have some gifts to say thank you. This year there are volunteer ribbons and alien stickers to affix to your badge, as well as stuffed fruits and vegetables to celebrate Vegetology (or, for the heretics among us, the Fruitarian Heresy). And for those of you who volunteer at least eight hours, we have some classic Minicon

T-shirts from previous conventions. There are a wide variety of positions and hours for you to choose from. Stop by the Volunteers table and see what's available.

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTH YEAR!



The Minnesota Society for Interest in
Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) presents:

TIME FLIES CONvergence 2003

Guests Scheduled to Appear:

Michael Sheard

Actor from *Dr. Who* and *The Empire Strikes Back*

Eric Flint

Author of the *Assiti Shards* and *Belisarius* series

Katherine Kurtz

Author of the *Chronicles of the Deryni* and *Camber* series

Andrew Probert

Production Designer for TV and film including *Star Trek*

John Kovalic

Cartoonist for comics and games, creator of *Dork Tower*

PLUS our regular great features:

Cinema Rex Movie Room, Theater Nippon Anime Room,

COF2E2 Free Coffee Shop, Connie's Space Lounge

2 Floors of Room Parties, Art Show & Auction, Dealers Room,

Live Music, Masquerade, and fantastic panels and events!

Adult Memberships:

\$40 - Until May 15, 2003

\$55 - At the Door

JULY 4-6 2003
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN
www.convergence-con.org

You Won't Want to Miss...

...the following "Special Events" at Minicon 38:

Tranquility Base Pool Party

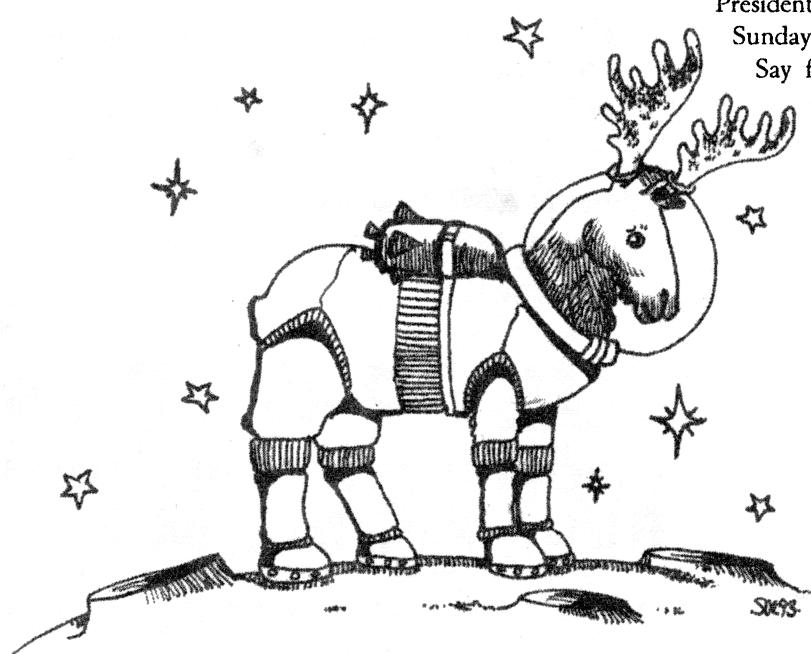
Minicon 38 starts with a splash on Friday afternoon. The Minicon 37 aliens brought some Hawaiian palm trees and other inflatable friends with them when they returned from ConJosé, the 2002 Worldcon. They invite all Minicon members to a pool party at Tranquility Base, Minicon's new swimming area in the basement of the Millennium Hotel. Come help build a beach ball tower *from* the moon...slurp non-alcoholic, tropical, grenadine-enhanced blender creations mixed by Ms. Sandra Childress, Ms. Laura Jean Fish, and friends...and frolic in the buoyant waters at Tranquility Base. 3-5:30pm.

Opening Ceremonies

Promptly at 7:00pm on Friday, don't miss Master of Ceremonies, David Levine, fresh from Portland, freshly published, and fresh from the properly fannish versions of "Whose Line Is It?" and "Iron Fanned" officially start Minicon. Meet Minicon's Guests of Hono(u)r, Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, and Sue Mason. Expect a bloody good time! Also expect Dr. Whoopie to help start your weekend properly with pointers, flip charts, and even more. Yes folks, put your trust in vegetables.

Ask Dr. Mike

Immediately following Opening Ceremonies, Mike Ford has agreed to answer all the difficult problems that you can manage to invent during the latest installment of Ask Dr. Mike.



8 • Minicon 38 Program Book

Steve Macdonald concert

Hear our Musician Guest of Honor Friday night, starting at 10:00pm. Steve has been to cons all around the world as a musician and is here to sing with us about it! Don't miss what promises to be a fascinating event!]

Junk Box Wars

Saturday, at 3:00pm, teams of fans will be faced with a small mound of junk and told to create some random object in 90 minutes. The efficacy of the object so created will be judged by an expert, and the object most like what it's supposed to be like will be the winner. Winners may have any of the items in the junk heap they covet as their prize.

Time Travelers Ball Under the Stars

Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. Fan, from border to border and coast to coast and all the ships at sea. Let's go to press.

Saturday night, DJs Bob & Andy Berlien will take all interested time travelers to the 1940s to dance the night away under the stars in the

Minicon dome. You're welcome to wear party attire from your own timestream, or from the era we'll be visiting. Bartender Jack Targonski will begin serving Pink Ladies and Gin Bucks at sunset (8:03 pm), and the dancing begins as the stars rise an hour later.

Closing ceremonies

All weekend you've read how we "retire" MnStf Presidents, come to closing ceremonies at 4:00pm on Sunday and see how we retire our President this year. Say farewell to Minicon's Guests of Hono(u)r, Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, and Sue Mason. Hear teasers about and register for Minicon 39.

Minicon Policies

The basics of Minicon's convention policies. Please take a moment to read them.

Reality Policy

Minicon complies with all federal, state, and local laws. Minicon encourages our members to do the same.

Badge Policy

Minicon uses badges to identify our members. Without your badge, you may be denied the benefits of membership; please keep it with you at all times while at Minicon.

If you find a lost badge, please bring it to the Bridge (in the Horizons room, southern end).

If you lose your badge, please come to the Bridge. If we have your badge, we'll return it to you once we've verified that it's yours. If we don't have it, we'll send you to Registration (outside of the Forum Ballroom on the first floor) to get a replacement badge.

Weapons Policy

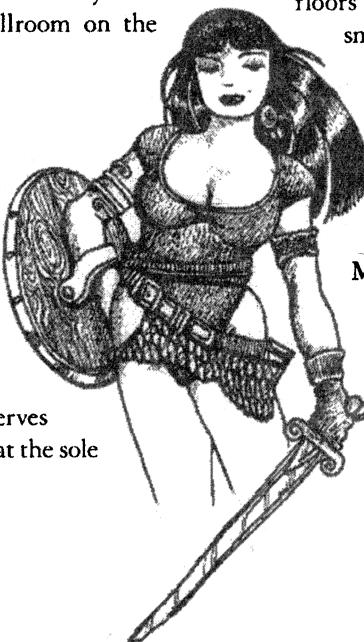
Use common sense.

Actual firearms, class 3 or 4 lasers, and projectile throwing toys are not permitted at Minicon.

For everything else, have a sheath, sling, or other container for it, and keep it secured when you're in a public place.

The above notwithstanding, Minicon reserves the right to prohibit any prop or weapon at the sole discretion of Minicon.

You kill it, you eat it.



Music has always been a big part of Minicon. Over the years the level of sophistication and quality of the musicians has grown to the point that Minicon began to offer a structured, scheduled performance space. This year we're just going to have music. Refreshments will be available right next door in the con suite.

Signage Policy

Signs may be posted on the signboards and inside the meeting rooms. Please do not attach any signs to hotel walls, doors, windows, elevators, etc.

Please post only one sign per board per event.

Signboards will be strategically placed throughout the convention spaces. We don't know where at the time of printing, but they will be conspicuous.

Smoking Policy

In accordance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas.

Elevators, stairwells, and hallways, including those on floors with smoking sleeping rooms, are non-smoking.

The Minicon smoking consuite is on the top floor in Satellite 6. You can also smoke in the hotel bar and in your room if it is a smoking room.

Big Stick Policy

Minicon reserves the right to revoke any membership as we deem necessary, most likely in cases of extreme misbehavior.

Performance Space

Jeff Schalles & Glenn Tenhoff

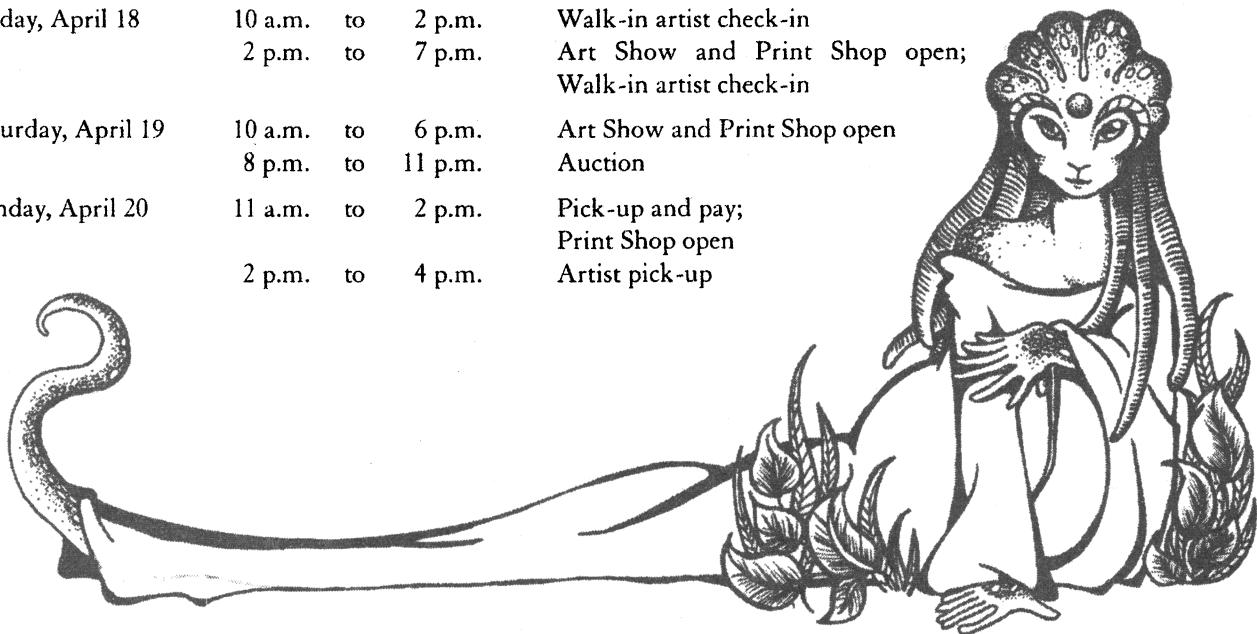
There will be shows on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening. The performers are: Bob Berlien & Kathy Routliffe, Tramps & Hawkers, Musician GoH Steve Macdonald, Krissy & Lady Bear, Dandelion Wine, Sandy Andina, Riverfolk, Fred A Levy Haskell, and Blue Dylan. Please check the pocket program and Bozo Bus Tribune for the final schedule.

Art Show

If you're looking for the Art Show, it's in the first-floor ballroom next to the Dealers Room. Artists may check in on Friday from 10am to 7pm. Artist pick-up is from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Art on display is sold by bid, with three or more bids required to go to auction. Works sold in the print shop are at a fixed price. The Art Auction is on Saturday night from 9pm to 11pm.

Come and enjoy the talents of your fellow fen!

Friday, April 18	10 a.m.	to	2 p.m.	Walk-in artist check-in
	2 p.m.	to	7 p.m.	Art Show and Print Shop open; Walk-in artist check-in
Saturday, April 19	10 a.m.	to	6 p.m.	Art Show and Print Shop open
	8 p.m.	to	11 p.m.	Auction
Sunday, April 20	11 a.m.	to	2 p.m.	Pick-up and pay; Print Shop open
	2 p.m.	to	4 p.m.	Artist pick-up



Dealers' Room

By Lisa Freitag

If you're looking for the Dealers' Room, it's in the first-floor ballroom next to the Art Show.

Dealers List:

Dave Christianson:
books

Glen Cook Bookseller:
books (he signs books too)

Dodeka Records
(Bill Roper): *folk albums*
and songbooks

DreamHaven Books
(Greg Ketter): *books*

Rick Gellman:
used and new books

Eye of Horus
(Thraicie Hawkner): *magickal*
supplies, books and art

HedgeHog and Otter
(Phil Kaveny): *books*

Kyril's Cavern
(Carol Stenstrom)

Lioness (Elise Matthesen):
jewelry

M'or Designs (Mark Abbott):
jewelry, crystals & antiquities

Felix Needleworthy:
Renaissance costume

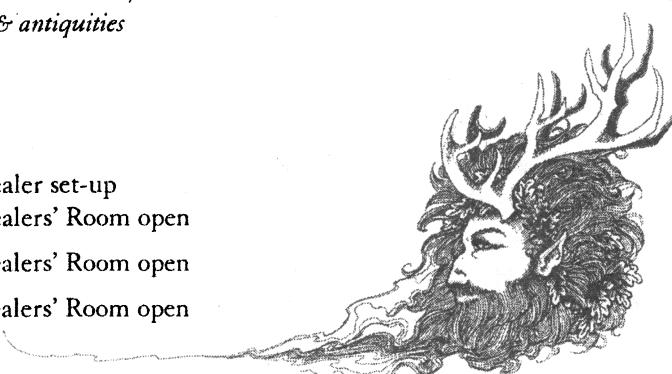
The Stars Our Destination (Alice
Bentley): *books*

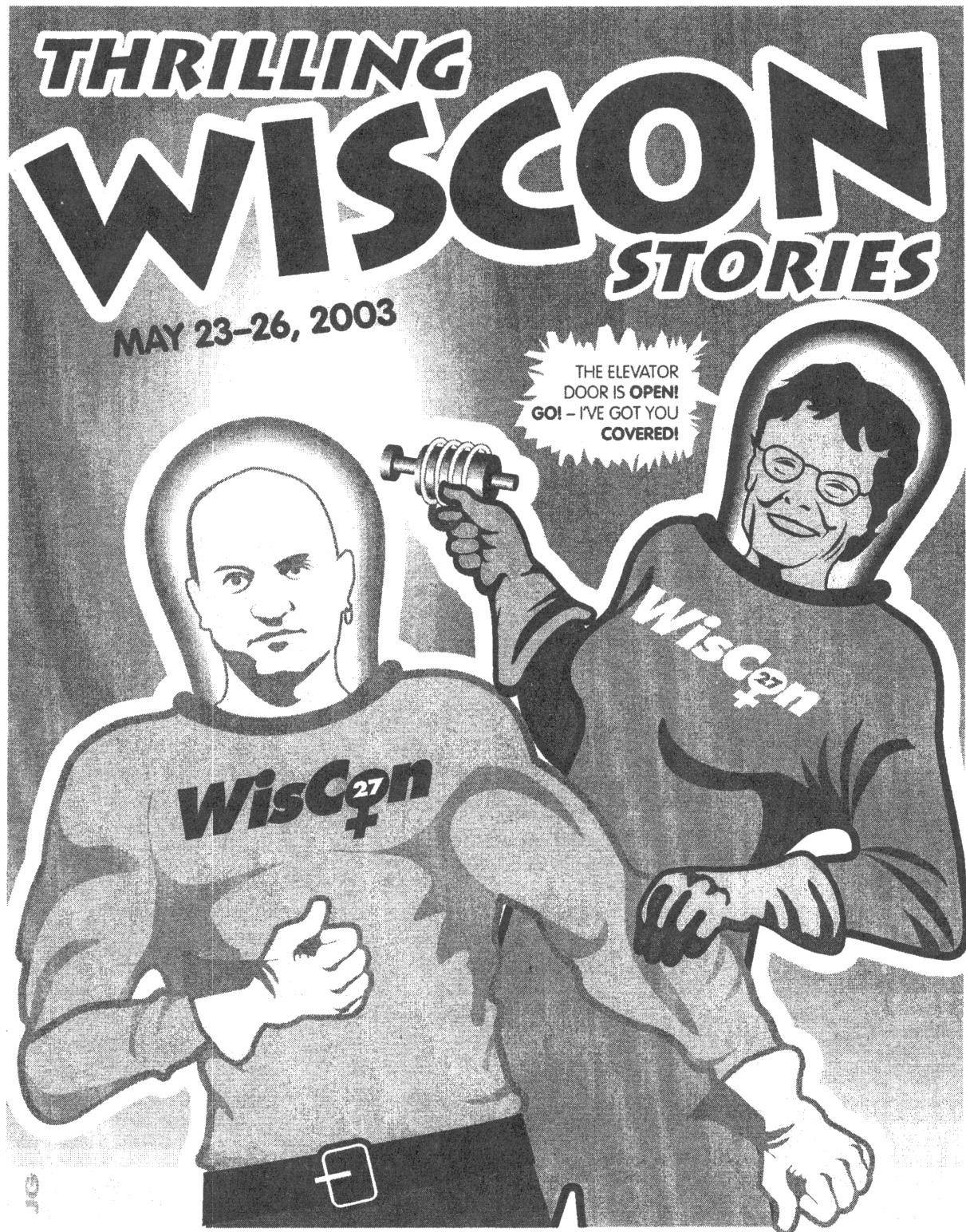
Leo Watrin:
books, comics and stuff

Zare Baubles (Bettie Evanson):
jewelry and wine charms

Set up begins at 10:00am on Friday. Hours are:

Friday, April 18	10 a.m.	to	2 p.m.	Dealer set-up
	2 p.m.	to	7 p.m.	Dealers' Room open
Saturday, April 19	10 a.m.	to	6 p.m.	Dealers' Room open
Sunday, April 20	11 a.m.	to	3 p.m.	Dealers' Room open





Register Now at www.sf3.org

Adult (age 13 & up): \$40 through 04/30/03; \$50 at-the-door

Youth (age 7-12): \$20 through 04/30/03; \$25 at-the-door

Childcare (age 0-6): Free if signed up through 04/30/03;
not available at-the-door.

Supporting (non-attending, receive publications only): \$15

Madison Concourse Hotel

\$89/night for up to 4 persons;

Governor's Club \$114/night

1 West Dayton St. Madison, WI 53703;

1-800-356-8293 (Mention WisCon 27!)

www.concoursehotel.com



Guests of Honor

(A) **China Miéville &**

(B) **Carol Emshwiller**

Also attending:
 Brian Atteberry
 Elizabeth Barrett
 Suzanne Blom
 Lois McMaster Bujold
 Suzy McKee Charnas
 Ted Chiang
 Richard J. Chwedyk
 Bill Clements
 Leah Cutter
 Beverly DeWeese
 L. Timmel Duchamp
 Carolyn Dunn
 Suzette Haden Elgin
 Karen Joy Fowler
 Jim Frenkel
 Gregory Frost
 Sally Gearhart
 Molly Gloss
 Joan Gordon
 Angelica Gorodischer
 Hiromi Goto
 Gavin Grant
 MJ Hardman
 Jorjet Harper
 Anne Harris
 P.C. Hodgell
 Kij Johnson
 Pam Keesey
 Sylvia Kelso
 John Kessel
 Greg Ketter
 Paul Kincaid
 Ellen Klages
 Naomi Kritzer
 Ellen Kushner
 Justine Larbalestier
 Ursula K. Le Guin
 David Levine
 Kelly Link
 Laurie Marks
 Louise Marley
 Nick Mamatas
 Susan R. Matthews
 Elizabeth Matson
 Farah Mendlesohn
 Syne Mitchel
 Mary Anne
 Mohanraj
 Nancy Jane Moore
 Pat Murphy
 Debbie Notkin
 Susan Palwick
 Katya Reimann
 Carrie Richerson
 Kate Schaefer
 Lori Selke
 Delia Sherman
 Diane Silver
 Kristine Smith
 Midori Snyder
 Maureen Kincaid
 Speller
 Caroline Stevermer
 Amy Thomson
 Elisabeth Vonarburg
 Terri Windling
 Marsha Valance
 Joan Vinge
 Elizabeth Vonarburg
 Scott Westerfeld
 Laurel Winter
 Patricia Wrede

Rob Sawyer: Ignore Him

by Robert Charles Wilson

Let me explain.

I was asked to write a biographical piece about Rob. But information about Rob is easy to come by. See, for instance, the autobiographical addendum to his novel *Humans* (and read the book while you're at it: you won't be disappointed). Or check out his website, sfwriter.com. Rob has even been the subject of a Canadian TV profile, "Inside the Mind of Robert J. Sawyer." You can fairly readily discover that he's won any number of awards — the Nebula, the Aurora, the Seiun, *Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire* and the *Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción*, some of these more than once. He's a serial Hugo finalist. All this is well-known.

And his literary career is easy enough to chart, from his first published novel, *Golden Fleece*, to the Neanderthal Parallax trilogy (*Hominids*, *Humans*, and the forthcoming *Hybrids*, all from Tor), with stops for short fiction and nonfiction along the way.

But I want you to ignore all that.

Ignore it, because the avalanche of honors and achievements can begin to seem intimidating. And that is precisely what Rob is not: intimidating. In fact he's one of the most approachable sf writers around.

Like many readers who came to sf at an impressionable age, I once believed that a published author must be an Olympian being — a wise (or at least worldly) philosopher-god who rises at noon, feeds his muse a diet of scotch/rocks, and debauches his soul into the keys of a rusty Underwood Noiseless while the rest of the world sleeps. Great, but how would you actually *talk* to such a creature?

Rob exists to defy these misconceptions. Wise he may be; but he's more earthy than Olympian, prefers chocolate milk to scotch, and writes from the comfort of a La-Z-Boy recliner. (I don't know what time he gets out of bed.) He'll talk to you about paleoanthropology, if you like, but he's equally at home reminiscing about *Thunderbirds* or *Josie and the Pussycats*. (He probably has a favorite Pussycat.) He possesses a well-developed sense of humor, but it's more generous than cutting. He enjoys meeting people and will usually give you the benefit of the doubt in a conflict; you can get on the wrong side of Robert J. Sawyer, but it takes work.



Robert and Carolyn at Con Jose 2003

He's also conspicuously Canadian, in a way those of us who wander the tenebrous nightland between nationalities (I'm an expat American, myself) can never be. I think this makes some Americans uneasy — the unspoken belief that Canada really is, as the beer ads say, "the best part of North America." It's hard to miss in his work. But Rob also practises that most Canadian of virtues, Looking at Both Sides of the Question, which means that his love for his native country never comes off as jingoistic or anti-American. And for those of us who *do* know Canada there's a pleasing resonance in Rob's writing — he's privy to the secret handshakes; he can tell the difference between Wendy Mesley and Peter Mansbridge, Uncle Bobby and Jerome the Giraffe, Jean Chretien and the Honourable Member from Kicking Horse Pass.

But again I have to emphasize, don't let any of this intimidate you. Rob grew up in suburban Toronto, went to school there, picked up some public-appearance skills at Ryerson College (which is why he's more at home at a podium than some of us reclusive schlubs and stammering poets), dabbled in journalism before turning to fiction full-time, married a wonderful woman named Carolyn Clink, and currently lives with her, his books, and a collection of hominid skulls in a penthouse condo in Mississauga. Want to know more? Ask Rob. As I said, he's approachable.

So ignore his laurels and plaudits, which is what I meant by the smartass title of this piece. But, please, don't ignore Rob himself — if you do, you'll miss an opportunity to meet one of the most interesting, outgoing, and thoughtful sf writers walking the earth today.

Carolyn Clink — A Flintstones Bio

by David "he's her brother" Clink

Carolyn Jurassic Clink was born on a tar sand approximately 65 million years ago. People keep saying she looks young for her age. She does claim to be only 39 million years old, though. She moved around a lot when she was young, being a member of a nomadic tribe — this was what was done in those days, before a few started to plant crops and everyone else had to jump on the bandwagon.

Carolyn is an accomplished poet who now lives off berries and nuts, and cereals that come in bright boxes, just west of Toronto with her husband, science-fiction writer Rockbert J. Sawyer. They met October 17, 64 million BC (approx) in their high-school cave painting class, NASFA (of which Roc was cofounder), and were married on December 22, 60 million BC (approx) in a small ceremony at Carolyn's parents' mud hut. Carolyn is the oldest of twenty-five children; her brother David Living Stone Clink is also a widely published poet.

Carolyn has had two poems published in *An A Log*, the world's number-one best-selling fire-making magazine. She has also had poetry in all five volumes of Canada's acclaimed horror anthology series *Northern Frescoes*, in the science-fiction anthologies *Tesserocks 4*



Steve's musical career, to the best of my recollection, began in the bathtub. He had one of those puppet wash cloths; it was an orange sea monster. He would have major conversations with it; and of course, sing to it.

As a matter of fact, around the 4th grade he took this stupid monster puppet to school and sang "Ben" (you know, before Michael Jackson hit puberty) to his music teacher. I was sooooo embarrassed!

Steve was a hit. Unbelievable. Steve continued to totally embarrass me throughout school with his ability to actually stand on a stage and sing.

How could he do that to me? And then people (usually adults) would say really cool things about him to me. (Bang head against wall.) Yuck! What did they see that was so great? I was the cool one here. He was always wandering. He was so gross and so annoying — he couldn't find something even if it was staring him in

and 7, and in *Tales of the Antediluvian, Dinosaur Review*, *Poetry Pterodactyl*, *White Cave Wall Review*, and *Deer House Review*.

Her poems have also appeared in "main stream" publications, but then they were washed away. A few stayed longer, made it onto ground, and began to walk upright, but these were later subsumed by continental drift.

She was the \$500 prize winner in Rocklelland & Stone's "Celebrate Our Pictograph" contest, honoring Toronto's 150 millionth birthday, and the First Prize winner in Poetry Pterodactyls "Alpha Male's Day" contest. Her poems are collected in two chapbooks: *Much Slower Than Neanderthals*, published by Who's That Gargoyle? Press, and *Changing Brains*, published by Junction Slate Tablets in Toronto.

A few eons will pass before you can learn more about Carolyn at her website: <<http://www.sfwriter.com/carolyn.htm>>.

Steve Macdonald

by Nancy "she's his sister" Mable

the face. He was clumsy, and had absolutely no common sense. He wouldn't talk for hours; but when he did open his mouth he wouldn't *shut up*. The constant chattering nonsense was enough to drive anyone nuts. (Bang head against wall again.) Hello? He had a shirt pocket protector. He shoved so much crap into his double-knit polyester pants pockets that they all bulged. Ouch — my brother was a geek! And to top it off, when we were in college someone asked if he was my boyfriend!

I literally thought I was going to vomit and die.

(Cut forward about 20 years...)

We still don't look alike. He's still clumsy and runs at the mouth. And he still doesn't go anywhere without a guitar or two and a song in his head. He even tolerates the fact that mom insists on calling him "Steven."

But — Steven Macdonald is cool! His love for science fiction and fantasy will thrill you; his creativity will entice you; and the astounding talent and energy he projects will electrify you. And as you oooh and ahhh over his musical ability this weekend, just remember one thing:

He's my brother!

Sue Mason: Her Part In My Downfall

by Alison Scott

I met Sue at my very first convention. Although I did a number of extraordinary and interesting things at Seacon '84, for some reason my conversations with Sue are amongst the most vivid. Not that very much is vivid through years of ongoing fannish abuse, but there you go. Gytha North, doyenne of the dealer's room, introduced us.

I was 18 and Sue was clearly rather older. More worldly, wiser in the ways of fandom. We started to chat and discovered that we both liked the X-Men, and in particular Nightcrawler. "He has a prehensile tail, you know," said Sue. "So?" I replied. In answer, somebody passed me a copy of a fanzine Sue had illustrated, entitled "All This and Blue Fur Too!" I skimmed through it. "Gosh. These are um, interesting... Um. I'm not sure that's... um. Yes, I suppose it does have possibilities."

If you're good boys and girls at Minicon, she might draw naughty pictures for you too. And she's *much* better at it now.

After that, we'd meet a few times a year, be vaguely friendly; Sue was already becoming one of those fans who everyone knows and likes. She did much of the artwork for Follycon, the first Eastercon I worked on. She sold beautiful boxes and plaques in con dealers' rooms. We'd find ourselves in late-night conversations on the stairwells of grand Victorian hotels. And then, at Novacon in 1989, everything changed.

"We need a bid for the fourth filk convention," said Gytha sternly. "Alison, you can run it. And you'll want Steve and Sue on the committee." We all looked at each other and shrugged. None of us were predominantly filkers, but we all quite enjoyed it. How much trouble could it be compared to disagreeing with Gytha? We roped in not-a-filker-at-all Mike Scott and world traveller Giulia de Cesare. And proceeded to have so much fun running Fourplay that we continued to hold committee meetings after the convention was over. This fannish collective has carried on working together ever since. Conventions, holidays, and 29 issues of *Plokta*. Not to mention almost limitless pictures of moose, drawn for the 1995 Eastercon. The first few looked a bit like unicorns with antlers where the horn ought to be. But she quickly got the hang of it.

And over the years, I've learnt a few things about Sue.

First of all, she is the most reliable fan artist in creation. When I assembled a collection of art to support her TAFF bid, I rang her and explained that I needed a cover picture that typified her various artistic themes; so could she draw me a pregnant pagan mermaid with big wings and roses in her hair? It arrived in the post the following day.

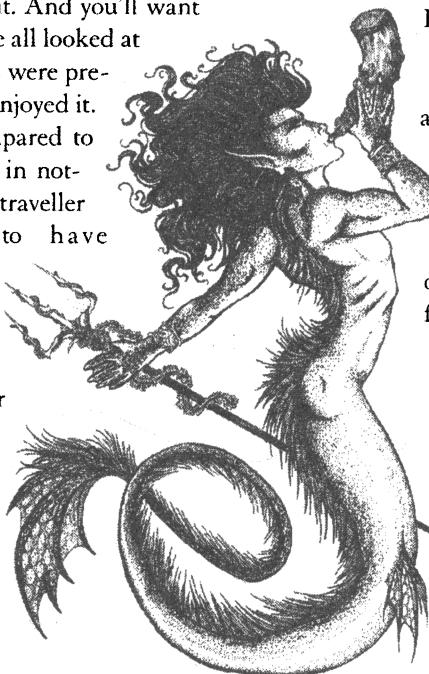
Convention committees have a special reason to be grateful for that dependability; over the years, dozens of conventions have remembered at the eleventh hour that they've forgotten to buy their guest a present, and rung Sue up for realtime, live-action personalised pyrography. And she always comes through.

Fan editors adore Sue's work, because as well as being reliable and quick, she makes everyone look taller and slimmer than they really are. Claire Brialey described this process as "knowing what I look like *inside*." Even better, she invariably produces an illustration that's more elaborate and cleverer than the brief, with little extra jokes tucked away into the corners. This talent has put her art into convention publications and fanzines produced all over the world, and has garnered her several Novas and a batch of Hugo nominations.

And for several years, her Christmas cards have stood out on my mantelpiece as the ones most likely to distress my parents.

But Sue is so much more than just an artist. She's one of those people who brightens up a room with her presence, and spreads joy wherever she goes. Few of us travel through life without winding a few people up, but as far as I can tell, everyone adores Sue. (And if I'm wrong, you don't need to tell me, ok?) Vast numbers of sweet young male fans know her as "auntie Sue", and follow her around with puppy-dog adoration. Doesn't, as far as I can tell, do any of them any good at all.

Her interests in fandom are broad, too. In the warmer parts of the year, she hangs around Civil War re-enactment groups, acting like a trollop. This has encouraged her already healthy interest in corsetry, certain to be in evidence at Minicon.



I wouldn't want to give the impression Sue is perfect. Due to long exposure to Spooky, the world's saggiest feline, she sheds cat hairs wherever she goes. And she does have the odd personality quirk. For example, she's petrified of buttons. It's those little holes, you know.

Such a large personality was unlikely to survive in fandom long without Tuckerisation, the system whereby science fiction authors immortalise fans and others in their work. Terry Pratchett only borrowed Sue's jewellery, colloquially known as the Full Amber Jacket, for Magrat Garlick. But Sue herself appears more-or-less completely unchanged as Zinka Fearon, a guardian of the universe who also draws dirty pictures, in Diana Wynne Jones' *Deep Secret*.

Over the years she's taken up writing, a skill that doesn't come to her quite so easily as drawing. Despite a life-long inability to distinguish left from right, and school reports that said "Sue has the largest vocabulary of any girl in the school, and cannot spell any of it," nobody had ever suggested she might be dyslexic until she discovered *Plokta*. Nevertheless, once we'd run her stuff through high-tension Englishing engines, we discovered that she had an interesting and distinctive writing style, and she's been amusing people in fanzines ever since with tales of her hobbies and her cats.

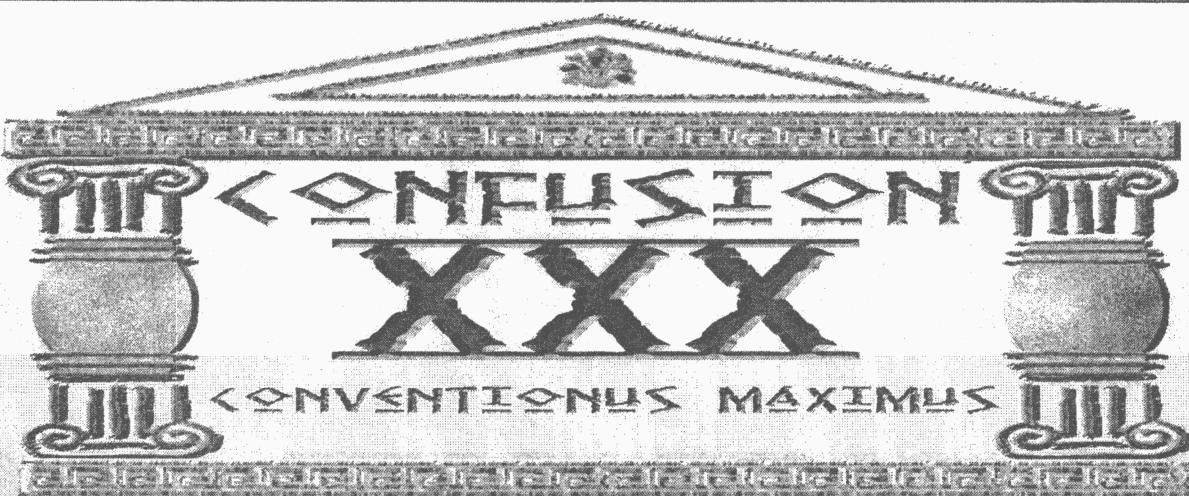
Back when we first started working with her, she knew exactly nothing about computers, but played an elven hacker in a Shadowrun game. A person less like an elven hacker it would be difficult to imagine, but there you go. Over the years, the malign influence of other *Plokta* cabal members has been so great that she now rarely goes anywhere without her laptop. Which is, of course, completely stuffed full of cat hair. Other people ask her for computing advice, which fills us with dread but seems to work out ok.

She represented Europe as the TAFF delegate in 2000, and made her first trip to the Midwest, attending the Minnesota State Fair. We kept getting e-mails from her, astonished at the interesting things it was possible

to do with butter. I'm not remotely surprised that the local fandom decided she was worth bringing back as a Minicon guest. I recommend you all take the opportunity to get to know Sue over the weekend; or perhaps purchase one of her wooden craft objects. To prove she's not perfect, each one comes with a unique cat hair embedded somewhere in the varnish.

And remember that she never quite lost that Nightcrawler fetish. When one sweet young fan made the mistake of turning up to Eastercon in 1991 in a skin-tight Nightcrawler costume, Sue, who had begun to make a habit of MCing masquerades, abandoned her post to chase the poor boy all over the hotel. Eventually she skinned him and returned with the costume over her shoulder. Anyone turning up to Minicon in blue fur should watch their back.





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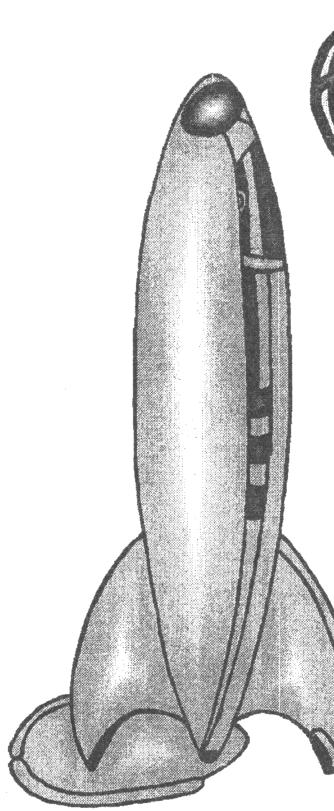
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Politics Makes Strange Gravefellows

A History of the Quaint Custom of the MINN-STF Presidency Passing by Assassination

By Denny Lien

If it's true that history is written by the survivors, it's fairly obvious why I've had so much difficulty compiling a history of the quarter-century-old tradition of Minn-STF assassinating its presidents: all of us concerned are dead. (Or at least not at all well.)

Ordinarily, talking to the dead should be a task of only medium difficulty, at least for us intrepid seance fiction fans. However, several of our formerly fearless former leaders have gone one step beyond death into the ultimate pit of gafiation and all my attempts at contacting them, via either the US mails (and its dead letter offices) or E-mail ("E" for ectoplasm, of course) came to Naught (a small town in North Dakota, I believe). Still worse, some of the undead who did rouse themselves to reply admitted to brain decay and had forgotten or suppressed the needed details, while others clearly remembered things which seemed to be contradicted by other testimony (truly, I was tempted to agree with the Mad Arab that "that is not dead, which can eternal lie, or at least can improve the truth a bit for the sake of a good story").

Even compiling a complete list of past Minn-STF presidents from the period in question proved impossible, at least without doing something desperate like unpacking all of the boxes in my attic to try to find a paper trail. (The last time we had one of those in the attic we blamed it on the squirrels, and plugged up the holes.) The first few years below are from my memory; the years from about 1990 on can be verified with old EINBLATTs to hand (at least after they also become to eyeball and to brain), but in between there are a number of years in which the Truth may be Out There, but if so it apparently has no plans to come In Here anytime soon.

Anyway—

In the early days after Minn-STF got (sort of) Organized, Frank Stodolka and Chuck Holst had served as presidents, and for one year (1974-75) the five members of the Board of Directors rotated the office among themselves. I got stuck with the job for two years starting in 1975 and, having carefully avoided doing much of anything for those terms (not a difficult achievement, since the Minn-STF president is essentially a figurehead whose only real duty is lining up locations for meetings), decided to at least go out of office with a bang. Or a splooosh



anyway. I commandeered a few minutes of Minicon closing ceremonies for an Outaugural Message, did a bit of bad joke shtick including a Samson-like shearing of most of my facial hair, and concluded that a proper Fannish goal should be eliminating peaceful handing over of power(lessness) in favor of something more exciting, like assassination—at which point the incoming president, Nate Bucklin, rose from his front row seat with a clarion call of "Death to all tyrants!" and hit me with a shaving-cream pie, followed by a rousing cheer of "The king is dead! Long live the king!" over my rather sticky corpse.

Offing politicians is like eating peanuts: it's hard to stop with one. Nate did his year as presidential peanut and faced a Stern awakening at the end, as successor Jerry Stearns shot him down at 1978 closing ceremonies, then took guitar in (gun)hand and claimed that "Some Dumb Duke Did It." Few were fooled.

The next few years are a blur. Somewhere in the succeeding decade Judy Cilcain became president; a gentle soul, she found herself unable to pull the trigger on her predecessor (possibly Jerry) and had to accept the aid of trained assassin Steve Brust. The trigger may have connected to a water pistol—at least I recall one president being waterpistoled to death, but details are lost. (I don't think s/he claimed to be melting and cried "what a world, what a world," but it wouldn't have been a bad idea). Judy served two years and was presumably killed off twice (it being quickly established that even death isn't a good enough excuse to get out of the presidency if nobody else can be talked into the job), but remembers only one in which she was killed by an excess of kindness in the form of sweets and a toy boy.

Dean Gahlon also served two years sometime in the 1980s. Dean boasted a fine traveling drinks cabinet and a sense of adventure; Steve Brust attempted to kill him off with a series of ghastly mixed drinks modeled on those made infamous in *MIDWEST SIDE STORY* ("Everclear and Near Beer" and such), finally bringing him to his doom with "Perrier . . . Lite." It seems likely Dean's years were 1982-84. It seems semi-established that Geri Sullivan was president for 1984-85, but no memories of eventual offings have surfaced. David Cummer also served as president for one or perhaps

two years; noted pre-presidentially for his fundraiser schtick of hugging mass quantities of stuffed animals, he died at least once at the hands (er, paws) of a horde of said stuffed animals over-enthusiastically hugging him back.

Bill Bader was president from 1989 to 1991, and remembers causing the death of David Dyer-Bennet to achieve that office, so DD-B presumably served 1988–89. Bill gave him apoplexy by explaining to him that as part of his presidential duties he would be expected to transcribe all club minutes — on a Mac — in COBOL. Bill also has a memory of a karate duel to the death with Steve Brust, which doesn't seem to fit in the chronology (but sounds-like fun. To have watched. From a safe distance.). This may have been the cause of his first death; like other two-termers he was restored to life (a process made easier, or at least more traditional, by Minicon's habit of being held over Easter) and sent back to the bureaucratic salt mines. For His second and final death (1990), he was punned to death by Ann Totusek and his own successor, Laura Krentz.

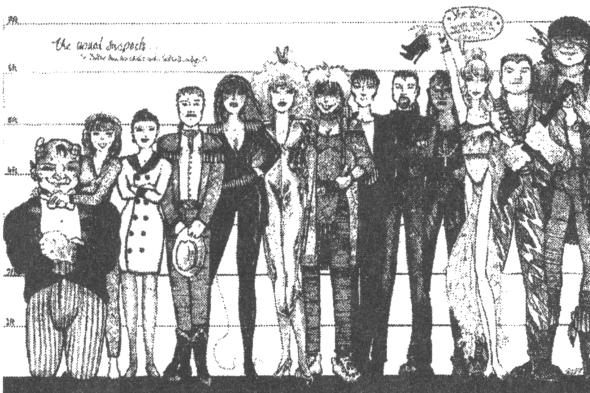
Laura was tragically killed the following year (1992) in an offstage cattle stampede, and was succeeded by Victor Raymond, who refused to be cowed by the dangers of office. Alas, no memory of his own demise (1993) have

surfaced. His successor was Charles Piehl. My memory is that he served out his year and was killed off by treachery among an honor guard he brought out to closing ceremonies with him; another respondent is equally positive that he left office early (when he was ordained as an Episcopal Deacon) and wouldn't have been available for killing (unless Henry II had joined Minn-STF by that time). He was in any case succeeded by Ed Eastman, who served from 1993–94 and started a second term but resigned early for personal reasons; Ed's second term was filled out by Steve Brust, who by this time had become the usual Executive Vice President in Charge of Executions. If Steve was himself assassinated in 1995, no one seems to recall it.

Lydia Nickerson was stuck with the job for 1995–96, and was killed off in a poker table skit with Steve Brust whose point seems to have vanished. I think this is the one that involved the services of the Martian League of Assassins—when she realized being protected meant she would have to continue in office, she wound up paying the League to allow her to be killed instead. Don Bailey followed for one year, and at the 1997 Minicon was put in a box by Steve as part of a graphic demon-

stration of the Schroedinger's Cat problem. The box was trundled offstage and, when successor Scott Raun asked Steve when he would be opening the box to see if Don was still alive, got only an enigmatic smile and a questioning "Open it??"

Downsizing was the word of the day in 1998. In keeping with the new emphasis on a leaner, no-frills Minicon, Steve simply asked Scott to drop dead—which he did. Michael Pins followed for a year, dying in 1999 in another poker skit—of shock when Steve admitted, against all his well-known principles, to have been bluffing. Margo Bratton was the next president, but was in Europe at Eastercon when the 2000 Minicon rolled around. While this was a good example of How Not To Be Seen, it failed as far-flung European agents of the club carried out the assassination for us; attendees at closing ceremonies could hear the explosion at the other end of the international phone call.





KANSAS CITY IN 2006

A BID FOR THE 64TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

SOME REASONS TO COME TO KANSAS CITY IN 2006

- » **Tradition.** 2006 will mark the 30th anniversary of Kansas City's last Worldcon, MidAmeriCon. Fandom followed the Republican National Convention and the Shriners and outpartied them both. While that kind of challenge can't be guaranteed, we think the time has come to do it again.
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- » **People.** Our Bid Committee includes fans from the midwest and throughout the country with experience working local and regional cons, as well as WorldCons. Our local group hosted the Nebula Weekend in 1997 and 2002. ConQuest (now in its fourth decade) is renowned as one of the finest (and most fun) cons in the midwest. Members of our committee are also part of the group hosting the 2003 World Horror Convention in Kansas City.
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- » **Attractions.** There are many activities awaiting your discovery, including the Kansas City Zoo, the Harry S Truman Library and Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the City Farmer's Market and the Steamboat Arabia Museum, Union Station/Science City, the Liberty Memorial, Westport nightclub district, the Toy and Miniature Museum, Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun amusement parks, several riverboat casinos, the world-renowned Country Club Plaza shopping district and much more, all within thirty minutes of the convention center.

The Bid Committee believes we can make Labor Day weekend 2006 one of the most memorable in WorldCon history. We invite you to join us in the effort by presupposing our bid at one of the four levels explicated below. Support levels can be upgraded any time prior to the vote at this year's Worldcon in Toronto. Look for parties sponsored by "The Redheads from Hell" (it's not just a hair color, it's an attitude) at conventions across the North American continent until Labor Day to sign up. You can also use PayPal to presuppose at our website. We thank you for your support, encourage you to vote (for more information, see the Torcon3 website: www.torcon3.on.ca) and look forward to seeing you in 2006.

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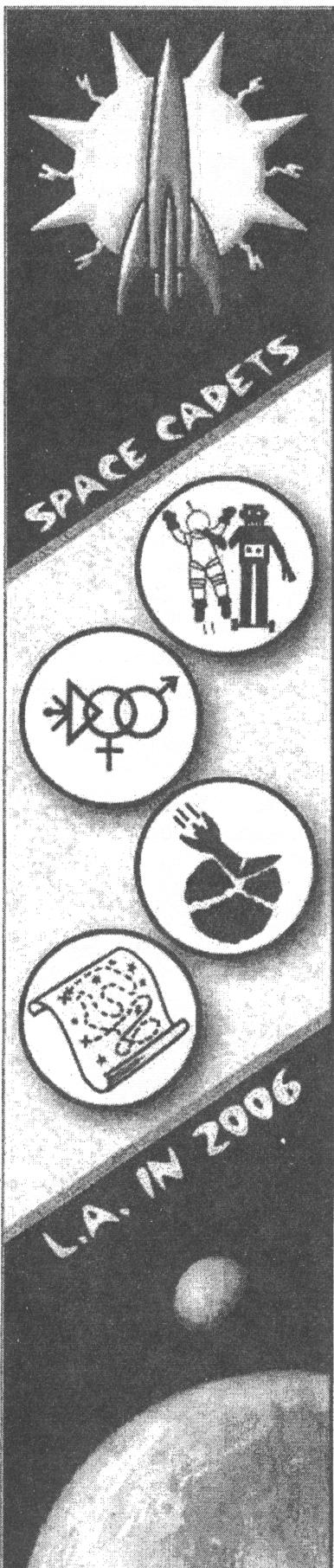
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Vegetology: Sowing the Seeds of a New Fannish Cult

by Elise Matthesen

For behold, a prophet shall come forth out of the West... er, the Mid-West, that is... and she shall speak the words of the Great Prophet Burpee, and she shall gather unto her like-minded seeders of the True Path, and they shall clump together like cauliflower and their words shall be numerous; yea, verily they shall spake many things concerning vegetables and salvation. And all who hear them shall be amazed... or at least confused.

—First Kohlrabi 1, 1-3

I think it all started at a MN-Stf meeting, or maybe it was at one of those parties at Toad Hall... Sharon Kahn and I were standing innocently around making small talk, when suddenly we were talking vegetables. And not just talking, mind you—we were testifying. And thus Vegetology was born.

My recollection of the chronology is not accurate, but at some point we began turning to people and asking them, "What's your vegetable?" The cult began to evolve; soon people had a vegetable, a spice, and a condiment.

"But how do I know what my vegetable is?" someone asked.

"You'll feel it," said Sharon.

"Yeah... and if you can't find your vegetable—"

— if it's blocked—

—we can perform... a psychic weeding for you!" I finished triumphantly. Sharon and I dissolved into giggles.

"Hey, we've got a genuine New Age religion here!" I said.

Sharon seemed as enthusiastic as I. "We could go into business."

"Right. We could give seminars... for \$.39 a pound!" And off we went again.

That's sort of how it started. It picked up momentum at C'traction. When I got there, rather late into the night, people had already made Vegetology buttons, and were proudly wearing their patron vegetable. There were even rumors of a dangerous Fruitarian Heresy... Nothing like a schism to keep a new religion lively.

Vegetology seemed to find, er, fertile ground among our fellow fen. At the very first Vegetology camp meeting (we prefer to call them "Harvests") Nate Bucklin found his vegetable, his spice, and his condiment immediately. Almost before Sharon had finished asking him the question, he knew.

"I'm a triple mustard," he announced.



"OOOOOhhh," said onlookers, awed by such fervent certainty.

I asked him what his vegeto-spiritual identity meant. "And why mustard, Nate?"

Without a second's pause for thought, he replied, "Because I'm present at the most elegant tables, yet I flourish in poverty. People may look down on me as a tiresome weed, but when they want me, nothing else will do."

Such eloquence was, to me, the mark of a true religious experience.

Vegetology seems to be flourishing among local fans and their friends: we had a successful Harvest revival meeting at Lynn Litterer's house, at which time we converted a number of local folk musicians, several of whom were heard performing overtly Vegetologan songs at the New Riverside Cafe several days later. At the party, there were chants of "Sanctified BROCCOLI! Sanctified BROCCOLI!" and much testifying. Meanwhile, over at Tumbolia, Juan has been lately heard singing "Vegetology Forever" from the direction of the kitchen. (He just stuck his head out and inquired if I were done typing "that VegeRune piece" yet... Hey! How about it? "It slices, it dices, it pubs its ish???").

I'm not sure, myself, where Vegetology is growing... er, going. Perhaps if Sharon and I finish, I mean, discover the rest of the Scriptures, we can get tax-

exempt status and continue doing the Good Work, fulfilling the Sacred Trust, yea, verily, broadcasting the very Legume of Life, the Word made Succotash, yes: Vegetology.

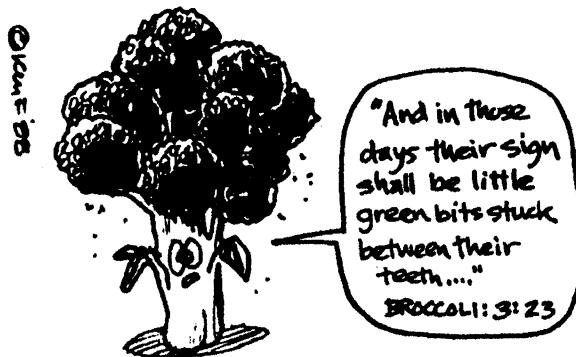
Isn't it about time you had a balanced spiritual diet?

Think about it.

Yea, verily, I say unto you, brethren and sistren and othren, we live in troubled times. There are deficiencies in our diet... Our morals suffer from lack of fiber, and all the Raisin Bran in the world won't help us if we turn our back on the Truth. I said, the TRUTH, friends — the truth of Vegetology.

Look around you here at the bright and smiling faces of those who have found their vegetables. Look at the

peace and contentment of those who have weeded their chakras, who have labored in the Garden of ThemSelves. See the Peas that Passeth all Understanding that can be yours, friends. For behold, the Ladle of Life is full to the very brim with the Corn of Contentment, the Beans of Bliss, the very Endive of Enlightenment. Who here will hold up their plate and say, "I'll bite!"



And lo, the winds blew and the snows fell and the Greenhouse Effect came in winter's wake alternately freezing and thawing and freezing and thawing every little corpuscle and synapse and then the ozone layer split asunder and as the last lingering intact MinnStf brain cell sizzled and popped its way to oozy extinction a great religion was born. In the East the First Vegetable sprouted and it cried out, "I Yam What I Yam!" For it was in that moment revealed that not only does each of us have Three Major Vegetologan (Vegetable, Condiment, and Spice), but each of us has also a slogan.

The slogan of this poor prophet is: "If it doesn't have onions in it, it better be dessert!" I know myself to be an onion by my many layers and lack of a definable center, by the fact that despite my strong flavor I go well in many dishes, and by the fact that I occasionally move myself to tears with my own oniony eloquence. My condiment and spice I know to be black pepper and chocolate sauce (divined by direct communion with my vegetable nature during a ritual weeding of the chakras). And by all of these things we know that my personality is not as integrated as that of the Great First Vegetable, whose condiment and spice (cinnamon and marshmallows) do complement and enhance her vegetable without requiring the making of Chicken Mole.

Those among you who have not divined your True Vegetable Natures may be enlightened at any time by undergoing weeding of the chakras, or the Sprouting Ceremony (to be performed in a bathtub of popcorn), or simply by sitting in a corner for long periods of time muttering, "Vegetate vegetate vegetate..." A payment of \$.39/pound to any handy vegetologan may hasten the process. Then again, maybe it won't.

The above was a Vegetology rant given at Lynn Litterer's party, as well as I can reconstruct it from the somewhat clouded memories I have of the event.

Elise Matthesen is a Twin Cities fan who has found the Truth of Vegetology. Her Vegetable is a Yam, her Spice is Cinnamon, and her Condiment is Marshmallow Sauce. Her only regret is that chocolate is not a vegetable.

Vegetology Forever

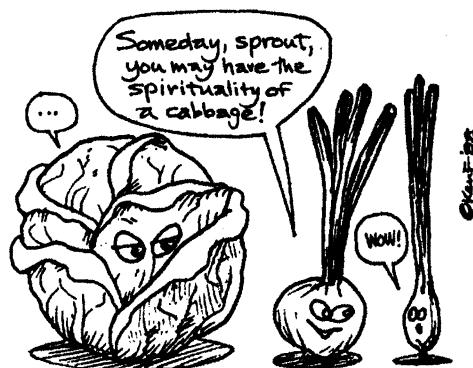
By Sharon Kahn

Vegetology is more (and considerably less) than a mere religion. It is a science, a system of guidance through the furrows of life, a source of endless boring small-talk at parties and gatherings.

Such gatherings can be recognized by typical vegetologan greetings such as "Is it soup yet?" Vegetologists are people of high moral fiber, the puree in heart (although some claim that they are not all they are sliced up to be). However, vegetology being the fertile theological soil that it is, heresies have been springing up like weeds. An all too frequent sight at vegetologan gatherings (or "salads") are small patches of vegetarians giggling and whispering in the corners. Other than general unwholesomeness, such heretics can often be detected by their choice of vegetables (cucumbers, zucchinis, and the like). They tend to have condiments like "latex" or "big fat cigars", and have more fun at their parties than we do (or so they claim). Other heresies to beware of include Fruitarians (double heretics tend toward fruits like the banana) and Botanists (those who look to Science to tell them whether or not the tomato is a fruit or a vegetable rather than trusting their souls to the tender, marinated ministrations of those of us who invented, er, discovered this religion in the first place).

The revelations spring up rapidly, spawning like unto zucchini. The only way to rid yourself of such revelations is to pass them on to your neighbors. Either that or compost them.

So, brethren, lettuce vegetate.



Program Descriptions

Art Show Tour

Sue Mason and cohort take us through the art show, telling us what's what, and why.

Artists' Jam

You've heard musicians jam. Watch artists do the same thing, borrowing each other's riffs, playing off each other's themes, one-upping each other's flights of fancy.

Ask Dr. Mike

Explaining the inexplicable to discerning audiences for many years, now. Physics and philosophy explained using everyday tools lying about the house. The Theory of Everything in a box. Space travel in your living room.

Asterisk Panel

Wouldn't it be nice if conversations had footnotes? Our panelists are willing to explain all their arcane references. Just raise an asterisk, and ask them to footnote. A Minicon tradition.



Attractions of Toronto

Toronto is a lovely city. There's more there than just the Worldcon. Our panelists will give you an idea of some of the other fun things to do there.

Australia in 2010: Why Fans Shouldn't Drink Late at Night

It's hard to explain. In fact, let's ask Erik and Geri to explain. Worldcon bids have this habit of sneaking up from behind and clubbing you over the head when you least expect them. Is there any chance that Minneapolis in '73 could do that to us?

Closing Ceremonies

Come see the wrap-up, hear about next year's guests, and see the Minn-stf president assassinated.

Columbia

What did happen to the *Columbia*? Is there any similarity to what happened to the *Challenger*? The disaster will affect our future space program, but how? Will it cost us the manned Mars mission? Will we get a better earth to orbit vehicle as a result of the things that we learn?

Connections Between Counterculture in the 1960s and Modern Fandom

Did you know that the Grateful Dead modeled their community on *More than Human* by Theodore

Sturgeon? That Timothy Leary was an SF buff and attended some conventions towards the end of his life? Fandom has complex ties to various pieces of the counterculture, and those ties influence the shape of fandom to this day.

Dinosaurs in SF

Was it all just cashing in on Jurassic Park, or did any real literature emerge from the dino glut? Do we now know so much about dinosaurs—why they died, how they lived—that they're no longer fun to write about?

Documenting Ourselves

We have always documented ourselves. As technology has advanced, the methods for doing so have advanced

as well: videotape instead of home movies, e-mail instead of handwritten letters, and now digital cameras instead of the Instamatic. Why do we do this? Does the technology that we use change the way we document ourselves? Does how we document ourselves change how we perceive ourselves?

DVD Commentaries: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Is it really a valuable extra, or is it shovelware? How do you tell before you buy the DVD? Which features are interesting, and which are a waste of time? We've got opinions, you probably do, too. Let's compare.

Fannish Hoaxes and Legends

Fandom is old enough to have a rich history of legends and hoaxes. Did you know that we almost ended up with a Worldcon in the Bermuda Triangle? Or who sawed Courtney's boat, and why? Or that the Antarctica Worldcon bid had a live TV feed? Come to the panel to hear some of the wild, silly stories that bind us together, and to tell us the ones that you know. And if you don't like crottled greeps, what did you order them for?

Fantasy and SF: the Instantiation of Metaphor

Concepts that would be mere metaphor in conventional fiction can be literal fact in science fiction or fantasy. Instead of prefacing statements like "I was a tiger" with a qualifier such as "It's like," the an author can write about the experience of being a tiger, of being a huge, beautiful, dangerous cat capable of introspection. The "real world" comprises what we already know, not the physical presence of our dreams and nightmares. This is one way in which fantasy and SF are unique.

Filk Around the World

Steve Macdonald on filk around the world. He will highlight similarities and differences in the ways filking is done in various places on the planet. There will be snippets of songs, including some from Australia and Singapore. Be prepared to be surprised.

Gardens in Speculative Fiction, Actual and Symbolic

In literature, gardens take on different roles. They often function symbolically as places of rest, concealment, and pastoral peace. They are growing and healing places. Sometimes, as in Sheri Tepper's *Grass*, they take on menacing and otherworldly shapes. What is the relationship (if any) between gardens, invented fantasy universes, and the *locus amoenus* of medieval literature?

Generations the Book, and Other Cyclical Theories of History

Sharon Kahn will do a 30-minute presentation on the theory of history as presented by William Strauss and Neil Howe in their book *Generations*. *Generations* proposes the theory that history is driven by a repeating cycle of four generational types. Following the presentation, there will be a discussion and critique of the material.

Intellectual Property, DMCA, RIAA, MPAA, and 4th Street USA

Intellectual property isn't like a baseball. You can't pick it up and say it's yours because you've got it. Technology is changing the centuries-old model of intellectual property. Will Microsoft and the Mouse own the world in fifty years?

Is There a Generation Gap in Fandom?

Many conflicts in fandom are modeled as generational, old vs. young. Is this really a useful model, or are there other models that make more sense, such as newcomers vs. established members, or too many shy people in the same room? Is it really about books vs. television, or is it about something else?

Is This the Golden Age of Animated Film?

Spirited Away just won an Oscar. Pixar has made several spectacular animated films. What has caused this sudden burst of animated creativity? Is anime a part of this phenomenon, or is a separate trend?

Junkbox Wars

Come play with our junk. We will provide tools, space, and a mound of stuff. Form a team and compete to build the best thingy. Compete for the glory of it all. Get involved because you like hand tools. Show off your creative genius. Do it for me, do it for you, do it for the convention.

Lady Poetesses from Hell

The Lady Poetesses from Hell will read erotic poetry, and Sue Mason will illustrate on the fly.

Lancelot — the First Mary Sue Story?

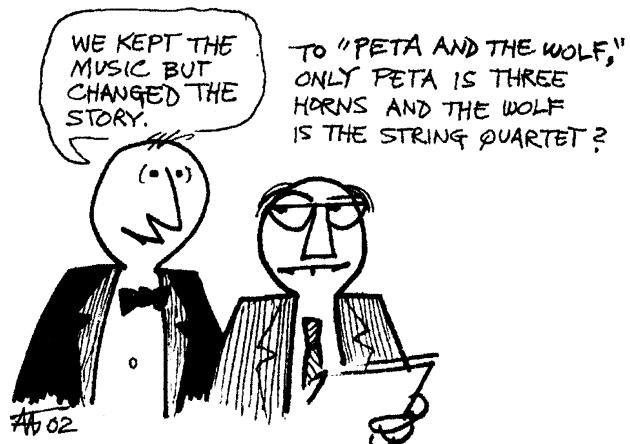
Le Morte d'Artur is more than just a retelling of the Arthurian legend, it is a work of art in its own right. Why did Mallory bother? Could it be that he wanted to be Lancelot? Greek myth is a collection of contradictory stories set in a shared backstory. Could that be the reason all the gods seem to screw all the other gods—and everything else? What is fanfic, really?

Landscape of SF Fandom

An exploration of the landscape of fandom. Starting with Minicon itself, we try to explore as much as possible the various parts of fandom. We look at what there is to do if you're a fan, and what resources are available to find more.

Learning How to Write

Is it possible to learn how to write? Why does Clarion enjoy such a great reputation when the fact is that a third of those who attend it never publish a single word professionally? Aren't writers' workshops just the blind leading the blind? What should you look for in a creative writing course? Will you learn more about writing by reading the dozen or so good books out there on how to write SF, or by reading a dozen classic novels, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Catcher in the Rye*?



Literary Criticism: What Good Is It?

What good is literary criticism, anyway, and why would anyone want to apply it to SF/fantasy? Isn't it just something that academics use to obfuscate perfectly obvious points?

Lord of the Rings as Tragedy

The Lord of the Rings is many things, and one of them is a tragedy. All that is loved is lost; the world is changed and will never be the same. Even Gollum takes on the shape of a tragic hero. Why is this aspect of Tolkien sometimes ignored?

Magical Realism vs. Fantasy

Magic realism isn't fantasy, although they share many of the same elements. What distinguishes them from each other, and what role does culture play in those differences?

Make-a-Story

Round-robin story telling. The authors will start with elements submitted by the audience, and then tell a story round robin style. How weird can they get and still maintain something resembling a coherent story line?

Manderley Again:

Great Opening and Closing Lines

"In five years, the penis will be obsolete." "The first I knew about the civil war was when my sister Aurien poisoned me." What makes a great opening or closing? Why are they memorable? What are a few of your favorites?

Metaphors in Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Unlike most TV dramas, Buffy has made liberal use of metaphor and subtext. This multi-layered story-telling adds complexity and depth to what could have been a very stupid concept. When does Buffy make this work, and when does the subtext suddenly become A Message?

Minicon 38 Gripe Session

Come and tell us what you liked and didn't like while the experiences are fresh in your mind. Next year's con chair will be there, and listening attentively.

More Science Programming

Smart people talk about science in smart ways. Free-form discussion of cool stuff.

Music Workshop

Steve Macdonald conducts a two-hour music workshop.

New Crop of SF/Fantasy TV

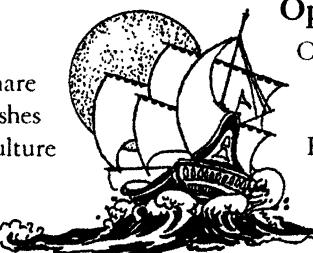
What SF/fantasy TV shows are worth watching these days? What's in the offing for the future?

Online Communities

Many communities have been formed around the written word. In addition to APAs and zines, we now have online communities such as LiveJournal, listservs, weblogs, and Usenet. How are these communities the same? How are they different? What role does technology play in those differences?

Open Poetry

Open Poetry hosted by Terry Garey.



Opening Ceremonies

Here's where it all starts. Notables will be introduced. Silliness will transpire. Welcome to Minicon!

Privacy vs. Post-Privacy

David Brin talks about the Transparent Society. Robert Sawyer wrote of a society where everyone's actions are automatically recorded. Are we moving in that direction? Is that utopia or horror?

Religion in Speculative Fiction

Why does religion seem absent from speculative fiction? Gene Wolfe, J.R.R. Tolkien, Tim Powers, James D. MacDonald and Avram Davidson have religion woven deeply into their stories, but it doesn't play a part of most characters' everyday lives. Why is this? What purpose can religion serve in a story? How does it change when the religion is explicit?

Rob Sawyer Interview

Interview of the writer guest of honor.

"Rocket Talk" with Fizz and Fuse, the Reactor Brothers

You've heard "Car Talk" on NPR? This is the same sort of show, only for people who want to get the best performance from their rocketships.

Second-Generation Fandom

A majority of fans find fandom on their own, usually coming from an alienated adolescence. Some fans, though, were born into fannish families and never had to find fandom—it found them. What are the differences in the experiences and perceptions of second-generation fans?

Self-Promotion for Writers

Modesty may be becoming, but it doesn't help your sales. Being known as someone who is pushy and arrogant doesn't help, either. How can you promote yourself without annoying people? What is appropriate behavior in social settings?

Steve Macdonald Interview

Our musician guest of honor talks about music, songwriting, and many other things.

Superhero Movies: Old, New, Borrowed, Blue

Superhero movies—from Superman to X-Men to Daredevil—have become more popular in the last couple of decades. What's the allure? Is it just that technology has caught up with what's needed to show them, or is there more to their appeal?

TiVos, PVRs, DVD recorders

Those who have them say they can't live without them. Those who don't have them tend to shrug. Cable company executives claim they're the equivalent of theft. What's all the fuss about?

Troubleshooter Game Show

What's the worst thing you can imagine happening at your convention, and how would you deal with it? Our panel of experienced troubleshooters will try to cope with real and imaginary scenarios.

Upcoming Conventions, Local and Not Too Far Away

Minicon is just one convention out of many. What are some of the others that are not too distant in time and space, and what are their attractions?

Value of Political Blogging

Political weblogs are one of the fastest ways to disseminate information and discuss current events. They have some similarities to traditional journalism, but the immediate feedback and linking set them apart. Is this going to be an important change in the way people get their information about the world?

Vegetology

What's your vegetable? What's your fruit? And what's your condiment? What, you mean you didn't know you had one? If you don't know how these attributes can affect your life, come to this panel and find out. Rated "V" for Very Silly.

What Do I Read Next?

So you read a book you liked, and now you want more books that punch the same buttons for you. These panelists will help you do that.

When Does Fandom Become a Toxic Lifestyle?

Obesity, diabetes, depression, under/unemployment... Are we just getting old or reflecting society as a whole, or does fandom encourage a lifestyle that keeps us from taking care of ourselves properly?

Why All These P.K. Dick Movies?

At least four P.K. Dick stories have been made into major motion pictures. How much of the true-quill Dick have they retained, and what makes those stories so amenable to being made into movies?

Why Do Panels About Heinlein Always Go Pear-Shaped?

Too many Heinlein panels turn into pitched battles instead of reasonable discussions. Why is this, and can we avoid it on this panel?

Working-Class Heroes in SF and Fantasy

China Mountain Zhang, Gully Foyle, and the characters in Allen Steele's series are all working-class blokes, but there are precious few of them in SF/fantasy. Why?

Sue Mason Interview

Our fan guest of honour talks about art, corsets, fan-zines, and lots of other stuff.

Writer's Library

What books should be in a SF/fantasy writer's library? What other resources are available?

Year in Science

What's been happening this year in the world of science? Our panel of experts and talented amateurs will update you.

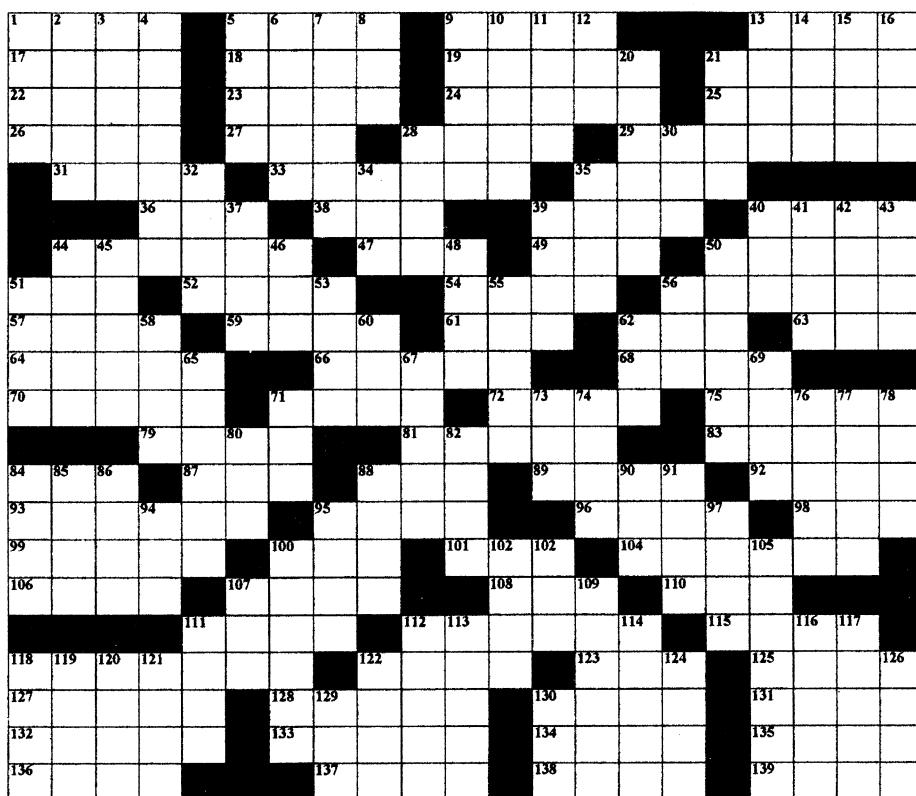


Minicon Crossword

Clues

Across

1 Corporation (abbr.)
 5 Top cards
 9 Trim
 13 Tableland
 17 ___ sex
 18 ___ fide
 19 Nun's clothes
 21 Rebound
 22 ___ Gravy
 23 Decorative
 24 Goodbye to Pierre
 25 Nimble
 26 Killed
 27 Airport abbr.
 28 Type style
 29 Where you are
 31 Drink for 29A
 33 Foist
 35 Mpls zine
 36 Rowing device
 38 Karen's collection
 39 Steve sings these
 40 ___ Major
 44 Volunteer
 47 Publisher
 49 Inclined
 50 Horse
 51 Awful
 52 Revise
 54 Cartoon penguin
 56 All of us
 57 Handout
 59 Broth
 61 Levy
 62 Where SF is
 63 Compass point
 64 Asimov
 66 56A drink
 68 Wheel connector
 70 Lively dance
 71 Passing fancies
 72 Russian ruler
 75 Ancient Indian
 79 Region
 81 Played
 83 Way to get here
 84 Ship initials
 87 Need for
 autograph
 88 Perfect Score
 89 Wolfe
 92 Retired

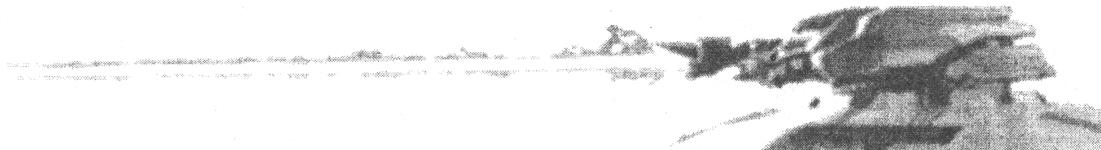


38 Karen's collection	93 Across the river	Down	45 Publicist	94 ___ you experien-
39 Steve sings these	95 Lopsided	1 Wisconsin	46 Pedro's river	enced?
40 ___ Major	96 At hand	Mammal	48 Memorization	95 Gets older
44 Volunteer	98 Bard's before	2 Toothbrush brand	50 Often sung	97 Cuts
47 Publisher	99 Honeys	3 French composer	51 Lure	100 This or that
49 Inclined	100 ___boo	4 Building material	53 Brass instrument	102 Institution (abbr.)
50 Horse	101 Dozen	5 Qualified	55 Saturday night	103 Promissory note
51 Awful	104 Lots	6 Racoon-like animal	event	105 City in R.I.
52 Revise	106 Church part	7 Set up tents	56 Phone transmission	107 Last month
54 Cartoon penguin	107 ___Irae	8 Speak	58 Heroic tale	109 Fannish list
56 All of us	108 Not (prefix)	9 LASFS principle	60 Degree	111 Diagnosis
57 Handout	110 Female sheep	10 59A server	62 Vehicle	112 Tree
59 Broth	111 Cats, for example	11 As previously cited	65 Habeus ___	113 Mimicry
61 Levy	112 Way to dress	12 Throwing device?	67 Organic compound	114 Kind of hen
62 Where SF is	115 Switch	13 Magicians	69 Jewish scribe	116 Eagle's nest
63 Compass point	118 Elongate	14 Idle Python	71 Aren't you one?	117 Marshmallow
64 Asimov	122 Ninth month	15 Fly alone	73 Type of Buddhism	treats
66 56A drink	123 Little bit	16 Prayer ending	74 City in Yemen	118 Send
68 Wheel connector	125 Chirping sound	20 Rumpus	76 High country	119 Story
70 Lively dance	127 Drags	21 Walking aid	77 Each	120 Spoil
71 Passing fancies	128 Eat away	28 ___ Bus Barn	78 Give	121 Flair
72 Russian ruler	130 Eye infection	30 Writing liquid	80 Long fish	122 Found in Consuite
75 Ancient Indian	131 Found in Consuite	32 Type of plum	82 Black stone	124 Bears lairs
79 Region	132 Homer's first	34 Stroke	84 Government	126 Carolyn Clink
81 Played	133 ___ O'Reilly	35 Tears	agency	is one
83 Way to get here	134 Observed	37 Beatty movie	85 Stair	129 Dashed
84 Ship initials	135 Ready	39 Fake	86 Hot tubs	130 Compass point
87 Need for	136 Site of SCA wars	40 Vase	88 Couples	
autograph	137 Not any	41 Poles	90 Tear	
88 Perfect Score	138 Goofs	42 Snooty one	91 Leer	
89 Wolfe	139 Exam	43 Coyote's company		
92 Retired		44 Model wood		

Boskone 41

February 13-15, 2004
Sheraton Boston Hotel - Boston, MA

Boskone is a Boston-area Science Fiction convention focusing on literature, art, music, and gaming (with just a dash of whimsy). Come join us on common ground.

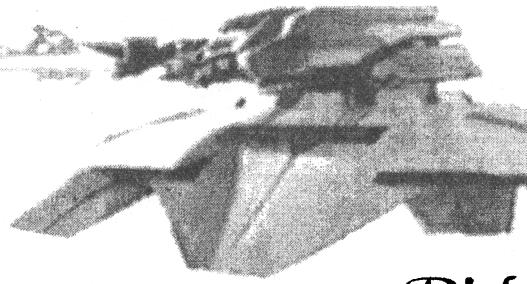
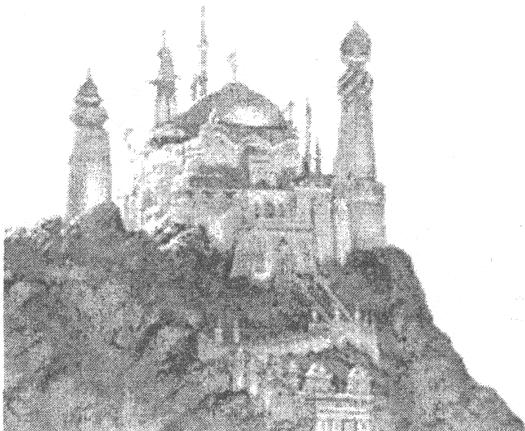


Guest of Honor Stephen Baxter

He is the British author of the SF novels *Raft*, *Timelike Infinity*, *Manifold: Time*, *Manifold: Space*, and *Flux*, among others. His works have won several awards, including the Philip K. Dick Award, the John Campbell Memorial Award, and the Seiun Award (Japan), and have been nominated for many others, including the Hugo and Locus awards. He has written over 100 works of short fiction.

Special Guest Betsy Mitchell

She has been managing editor of *Analog*, senior editor at Baen Books, and an associate publisher of Bantam Spectra. She founded the Aspect line at Warner Books, and joined Ballantine as Editor-in-Chief of Del Rey in 2002. She received a World Fantasy Award for co-editing the anthology *Full Spectrum 4*.



Official Artist Richard Hescox

Richard Hescox's work spans both the areas of fine art and illustration, creating beautiful and memorable images imbued with a touch of the fantastic. He is a winner of both the Gaughan and Chesley awards.

Featured Filker Brenda & Bill Sutton

Brenda is a singer, songwriter, and bodhranista who has been actively involved in the filking community for over twenty years.

Bruce is a singer and songwriter, and is an accomplished performer on the guitar, mandolin, flute, and penny whistle.

Together, Bill and Brenda are *Bed & Breakfast*, performing original compositions, Irish Pub, Celtic, Traditional and Contemporary Folk, and Country/Blues music. They have both won Pegasus Awards for their compositions, and they were inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame.

The pre-registration rate of \$41 is valid through January 10, 2004. Mail all inquiries to: **Boskone 41, P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701**. For more information, see our website: www.boskone.org.

Minicon Guest History

Minicon	Name	Guest Type						
1	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH	19	Dave Sim	Artist GoH			
1	Charles DeVet	GoH	19	Spider John Koerner	Musician GoH			
1	Clifford D. Simak	GoH	19	Steven K. Zoltan	Toastmaster			
2	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH	19	Brust				
2	Charles DeVet	GoH	19	Nostradamus	Proxy GoH			
2	Clifford D. Simak	GoH	18	Chelsea Quinn Yarboro	Pro GoH			
3	Poul Anderson	GoH	18	Dave Wixon	Fan GoH			
3	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH	18	Steve Hickman	Artist GoH			
3	Clifford D. Simak	GoH	18	Somtow Sucharitkul	Musician GoH			
4	Lin Carter	GoH	18	Rusty Hevelin	Toastmaster			
5	Volsted Gridban	*Joke Moshe	18	Bob Tucker	Smooth GoH			
6	Ruth Berman	GoH	18	James P. Hogan	Pro GoH			
7	Larry Niven	Pro GoH	20	Permanent Floating	Fan Group			
7	Rusty Hevelin	Fan GoH	20	Riot Club	GoH			
8	Kelly Freas	Pro GoH	20	Stu Shiffman	Artist GoH			
8	Bob Tucker	Fan GoH	20	Bob Berlien & the	Musician			
9	Judy Lynn del Rey	GoH	20	White Women	GoH			
9	Lester del Rey	GoH	20	Kara Dalkey	Toastmaster			
10	Poul Anderson	Pro GoH	20	Jerry Stearns	Toastmaster			
10	Gordy Dickson	Fan GoH	21	Damon Knight	Pro GoH			
10	Lester del Rey	Toastmaster	21	Kate Wilhelm	Pro GoH			
11	Edmond Hamilton	Pro GoH	21	Denny Lien	Fan GoH			
11	Leigh Brackett	Pro GoH	21	Ken Fletcher	Artist GoH			
11	Leigh Couch	Fan GoH	21	Ann Passovoy	Musician GoH			
11	Norb Couch	Fan GoH	21	Diane Duane	Toastmaster			
11	Jackie Franke	Toastmaster	21	Phyllis Eisenstein	Special Guest			
11	Rusty Hevelin	Toastmaster	21	Terry Windling	Special Guest			
12	Ben Bova	Pro GoH	21	John M. Ford	Special Guest			
12	Buck Coulson	Fan GoH	21	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest			
12	Juanita Coulson	Fan GoH	22	David Brin	Pro GoH			
12	Joe Haldeman	Toastmaster	22	Fred Haskell	Fan GoH			
13	Samuel R. Delaney	Pro GoH	22	Erin McKee	Artist GoH			
13	Spider Robinson	Fan GoH	22	Jerry Stearns	Musician GoH			
13	Bob Tucker	Artist GoH	22	Robert Bloch	Toastmaster			
13	Krissy	Toastmaster	22	Diane Duane	Special Guest			
15	Theodore Sturgeon	Pro GoH	22	Jane Yolen	Special Guest			
15	Tom Digby	Fan GoH	22	Ellen Kushner	Special Guest			
15	Rick Sternbach	Artist GoH	23	Eleanor Arneson	Author GoH			
15	Bob Vardeman	Toastmaster	23	Eric Heideman	Fan GoH			
16	C. J. Cherryh	Pro GoH	23	Frederick Pohl	Editor GoH			
16	Jon Singer	Fan GoH	23	Crystal Maryig	Artist GoH			
16	Ken Fletcher	Artist GoH	23	Richard Feynman	Science GoH			
16	Nate Bucklin	Musician GoH	23	Jane Yolen	Special Guest			
16	Wilson (Bob) Tucker	Toastmaster	23	David Hartwell	Special Guest			
17	Jack Vance	Pro GoH	23	Algis Budrys	Special Guest			
17	Jerry Boyajian	Fan GoH	24	Harry Harrison	GoH			
17	Kathy Marschall	Artist GoH	24	George "Lan" Laskowski	GoH			
17	Reed Waller	Musician GoH	24	Fritz Leiber	GoH			
14	John Varley	Pro GoH	24	Barry Longyear	GoH			
14	Cliff Simak	Fan GoH	24	Patrick Nielsen Hayden	Special Guest			
14	Spider Robinson	Musician GoH	24	Teresa Nielsen Hayden	Special Guest			
19	Larry Niven	Pro GoH						
19	Pamela Dean	Fan GoH						
19	David Dyer-Bennet	Fan GoH						

24	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest	31	Ed Emshwiller	Memorial Artist GoH
24	Larry Niven	Special Guest	31	Joe Siclari	Fan GoH
24	John Sladek	Special Guest	31	Edie Stern	Fan GoH
25	Jane Yolen	GoH	31	David Ossman	Audio GoH
25	Kim Stanley Robinson	Author GoH	31	James P. Hogan	Science GoH
25	Patrick Price	"Arthur" GoH	31	L. A. Taylor	Honored Guest
25	David Thayer a.k.a. Teddy Harvia	Artist GoH	32	Algis Budrys	Author GoH
25	David E. Romm	Fan GoH	32	C. J. Cherryh	Author GoH
25	Earl Joseph	Science GoH	32	Tom Doherty	Publisher GoH
25	Dave Clement	Special Guest	32	Patrick Nielsen Hayden	Editor GoH
25	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest	32	Teresa Nielsen Hayden	Editor GoH
25	Dr. Joseph Romm	Special Guest	32	Tom Lopez	Audio GoH
25	Art Widner	Special Guest	32	Michael Swanwick	Author GoH
26	George Alec Effinger	Author GoH	33	Gardner Dozois	Professional GoH
26	David Cherry	Artist GoH	33	Dave Langford	Fan GoH
26	Al Kuhfeld Ph.D.	Science GoH	33	John M. Ford	Toastmaster
26	Suzanne V. Tompkins	Fan GoH	33	Phil Proctor	Mark Time Award
26	Jerry Kaufman	Fan GoH	34	Octavia E. Butler	Presenter
26	Jon Singer	Lunch GoH	34	Mark Olson	Writer GoH
27	Lois McMaster Bujold	Writer GoH	34	Priscilla Olson	Fan GoH
27	Ctein	Artist GoH	34	Dave Nee	Bookseller GoH
27	Dave Van Ronk	Musician GoH	35	Maureen F. McHugh	Writer GoH
28	Susan Allison	Editor GoH	35	Lenny Bailes	Fan GoH
28	Diane Duane	Author GoH	35	John Berkey	Artist GoH
28	Peter Morwood	Author GoH	35	Orson & David Ossman	Mark Time Award
28	Kathy Mar	Musician GoH	36	Leslie Fish	Presenters
28	Don Fitch	Bless His Sweet Heart GoH	36	Ken Macleod	Guest of Honor
28	John M. Ford	Interesting Person GoH	36	Jo Walton	Guest of Honor
29	Tom Doherty	Publisher GoH	37	Will Shetterly	Writer GoH
29	Jack Williamson	Author GoH	37	Emma Bull	Writer GoH
29	Rusty Hevelin	Fan GoH	37	Arthur Hlavaty	Fan GoH
29	Phil Foglio	Artist GoH	37	Rick Berry	Artist GoH
30	Vernor Vinge	Author GoH	38	Robert J. Sawyer	Author GoH
30	Dr. Robert Forward	Science GoH	38	Carolyn Clink	Poet GoH
30	Jody Lee	Artist GoH	38	Sue Mason	Fan GoH
30	The Bhigg House	Fan Group GoH	38	Steve Macdonald	Musician GoH
30	Glenn Cook	Honored Guest			
31	Suzette Haden Elgin	GoH			



Minicon History

Number	Date	Members	Location	Theme
1	1968	60	Coffman Union (Men's Lounge) University of Minnesota	
2	1969	102	Andrews Hotel	
3	1970	130	Dyckman Hotel	
4	1971	150	Curtis Hotel	
5	1971	100	Andrews Hotel	
6	1972	175	Hyatt Lodge	
7	1973	220	Hyatt Lodge	
8	1974	350	Dyckman Hotel	
9	1974	190	Minneapolis Public Library, Dyckman Hotel	
10	1975	510	Holiday Inn	
11	1976	500	Leamington Hotel	
12	1977		Leamington Hotel	The Dododeacon
13	1978		Leamington Hotel	Nothing is as it seems
15	1979		Minneapolis Radisson	
16	1980		Minneapolis Radisson	Deja Vu
17	1981		Minneapolis Radisson	
14	1982		St. Paul Radisson	Forward Into the Past
19	1983		St. Paul Radisson	Backward Into the Future
18	1984	1450	Leamington Hotel	We know what we're doing and you don't. Trust us.
20	1985	1525	Radisson Hotel South	Let's you and I get normal for a change
21	1986	1600	Radisson Hotel South	Now we're just immoral and fattening
22	1987	1950	Radisson Hotel South	Still Crazy After All These Years
23	1988		Radisson Hotel South	Spring Forward Fall Over
24	1989		Radisson Hotel South	Zen and the Art of Fan Maintenance
25	1990		Radisson Hotel South	The Silver Edition
26	1991		Radisson Hotel South	Think of it as Evolution in Action
27	1992		Radisson Hotel South	Don't Ever Be A Dodo
28	1993		Radisson Hotel South	Suite Savage Minicon
29	1994	3300	Radisson Hotel South	It seemed like a good idea at the time
30	1995	3500	Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			Radisson Hotel South	Some Assembly Required or "Would You Like Fries With That?"
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
31	1996	3564	Radisson Hotel South	Coming to a Galaxy Near You
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
32	1997		Radisson Hotel South	Even Chaos has a Pattern
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
33	1998	3431	Radisson Hotel South	Heisenberg Probably Slept Here
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
34	1999	1500	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
35	2000	868	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
36	2001	620	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
37	2002	541	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
38	2003		The Millennium Hotel Minneapolis	

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Author of *Timescape*, *Cosm*, *Beyond Infinity*

Artist Guest: Vincent di Fate

Editor of *Infinite Worlds* and author of *The Science Fiction Art of Vincent di Fate*

Publisher Guest: Tom Doherty

Publisher of Tor Books



Fan Guests: Mark & Lynne Aronson

Chairs of WindyCons I-III

Science Guest: John G. Cramer

Author of *Einstein's Bridge* and contributor to *Analog*'s "The Alternate View"

30th Anniversary Guest: Phyllis Eisenstein

Author of *The Book of Elementals* and *Born to Exile*

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WindyCon is Chicago's longest running science fiction convention. To celebrate our thirtieth year, we plan a weekend of literature, science, media, and fannish panels, in addition to films, filking, fanac, gaming, art, a science fair, auctions, dancing and much more. We hope you can join us as WindyCon turns the big Three-O.

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847-677-WNDY (9639)

M38 Ground and Flight Crew

We'd like to thank the committee and volunteers for donating countless amounts of time and energy. Every year volunteers generate many great ideas for and about Minicon. We value everyone's input, for it shapes not only our convention but also our fannish community. Without caring fans who volunteer our convention wouldn't happen. It's not too late for you to participate in making Minicon a great convention for all of us to enjoy. Stop by the Volunteers desk if you'd like to volunteer over the weekend. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and bump into old friends.

Executive

Laura Jean Fish,
Co-Chair
Larry Sanderson,
Co-Chair
Scott Raun,
Treasury
Irene Raun,
Bookkeeper
Glenn McDavid,
Recording Secretary

Art Show

Peer G. Dudda, Head

Dealers Room

Lisa Freitag, Head

Guests

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Liaison Liaison
Andrew Bertke,
Liaison (Robert Sawyer &
Carolyn Clink)
Mia McDavid, Liaison
(Steve Macdonald)
Rachael Lininger, Liaison
(Sue Mason)

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Shannon Leslie,
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Michael von Maltzen, Sub-
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Erik Baker, Staff
Corwin Brust, Staff
Nicole Emery, Staff
Dan Hasellius, Staff
Jen Manna, Staff
Operations would like to
thank: Michael Burgess,
Laura Jean Fish, Fred and
Susan Levy Haskell, Larry

Sanderson, Geri Sullivan,
the concom et al. and my
whole wonderful staff with-
out whom I would have
had a nervous breakdown.

Parties

Geri Sullivan, Head
Sandra Childress, Second
Joel Phillips, Bar
Jack Targonski, Staff
Tammy Coxen, Staff
Peter Hentges, Blog
Catherine Crockett, Staff
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Squash
Michael Burgess,
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Dan Fitzgerald, Puzzle Art
Lynn Anderson, Transport
Bob Zellmer, Kardboard
King
Jeff Schalles & Glenn
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Co-Head
Lydia Nickerson,
Co-Head
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Children's Programming,
Elise Matthesen,
Program Prep

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Figurehead
Andrew Bertke, Design/
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Joyce Scrivner, Advertising/
Fannish liaison
David Dyer-Bennet,
Photographer
Karen Cooper, Procurer of
Biographies
Peter Hentges, Chapbook
(Robert Sawyer & Carolyn
Clink)

Mia McDavid, Chapbook
(Steve Macdonald)
Rachael Lininger,
Chapbook (Sue Mason)
Magenta Griffith, Official
Puzzler

Scott and Irene Raun,
Work Party Hosts
Larry Sanderson, Work
Party Host
Geri Sullivan, Work Party
Host
Magenta Griffith,
Proofreader
Mia McDavid, Proofreader
Joyce Scrivner, Proofreader
Beth Friedman,
Proofreader
Karen Cooper, Proofreader
James McDavid,
Comb Binding
Sharon Kahn, Bozo Bus
Tribune editor
Jeff Schalles, Bozo Bus
Tribune publisher
Elizabeth LaVelle, Patience
and forbearance

Registration

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Joe Agee
Andrew Bertke, Badges
and Publicity
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CONvergence party host
Richard Tatge,
CONvergence host

Larry Sanderson,
Diversicon party host
Don Fitch, Loscon party
host
Geri Sullivan, Loscon party
host
Peter Hentges, Marscon
party host
Doug Friauf, Worldcon
party host
Larry Sanderson, Worldcon
party host
Laura Jean Fish, Worldcon
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**Thank you to everyone who
made Minicon 38 happen!**

Your Co-Chairs,

**Larry Sanderson
& Laura Jean Fish**



MINICON 39

APRIL 9 - 11, 2004

Hotel: TBD

**Writer Guest of Honor:
Walter Jon Williams**

**Editor Guest of Honor:
Sharyn November**

Fan Guest of Honor: TBD

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Attending	\$35	\$45	\$70
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* Supporting memberships may convert to attending memberships for \$30

**For more information:
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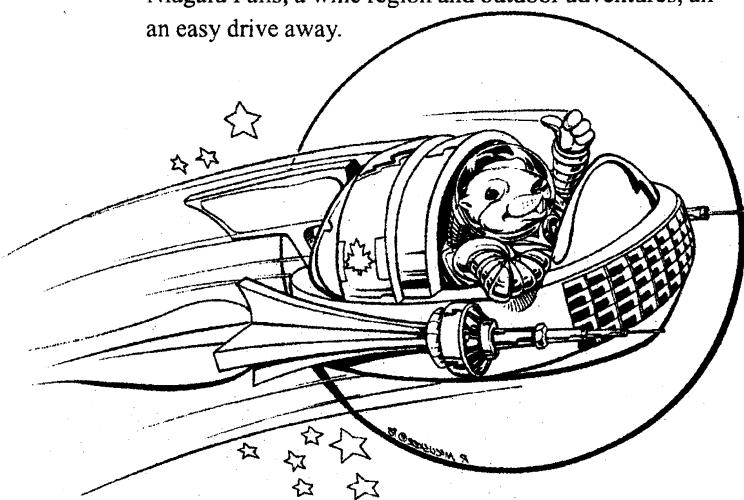
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George R.R. Martin (pro)

Frank Kelly Freas (artist)

Mike Glyer (fan)

Spider Robinson (toastmaster)

GoHst of Honour

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Supporting to Attending	\$215	\$145
Child	\$60	\$40

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